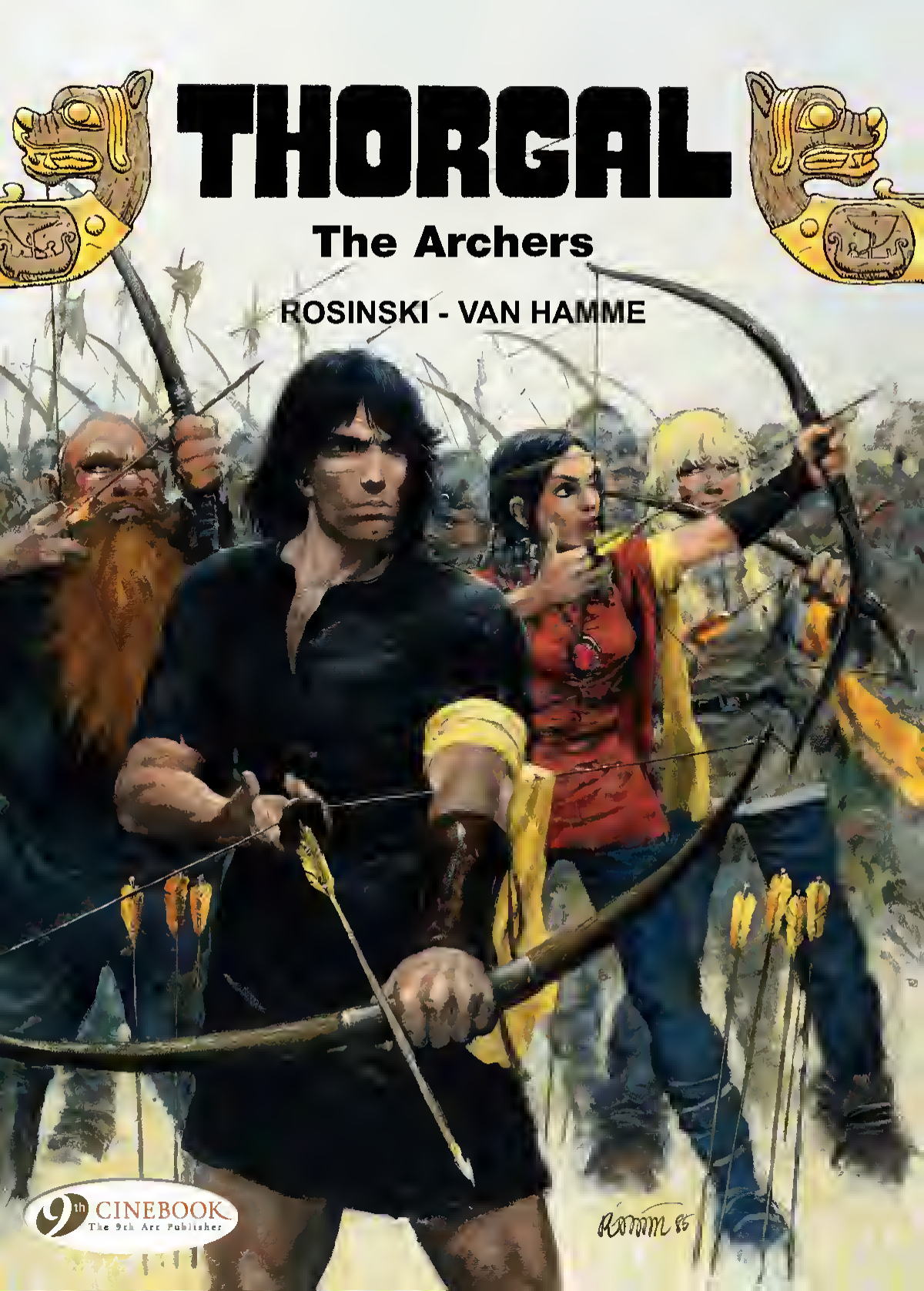
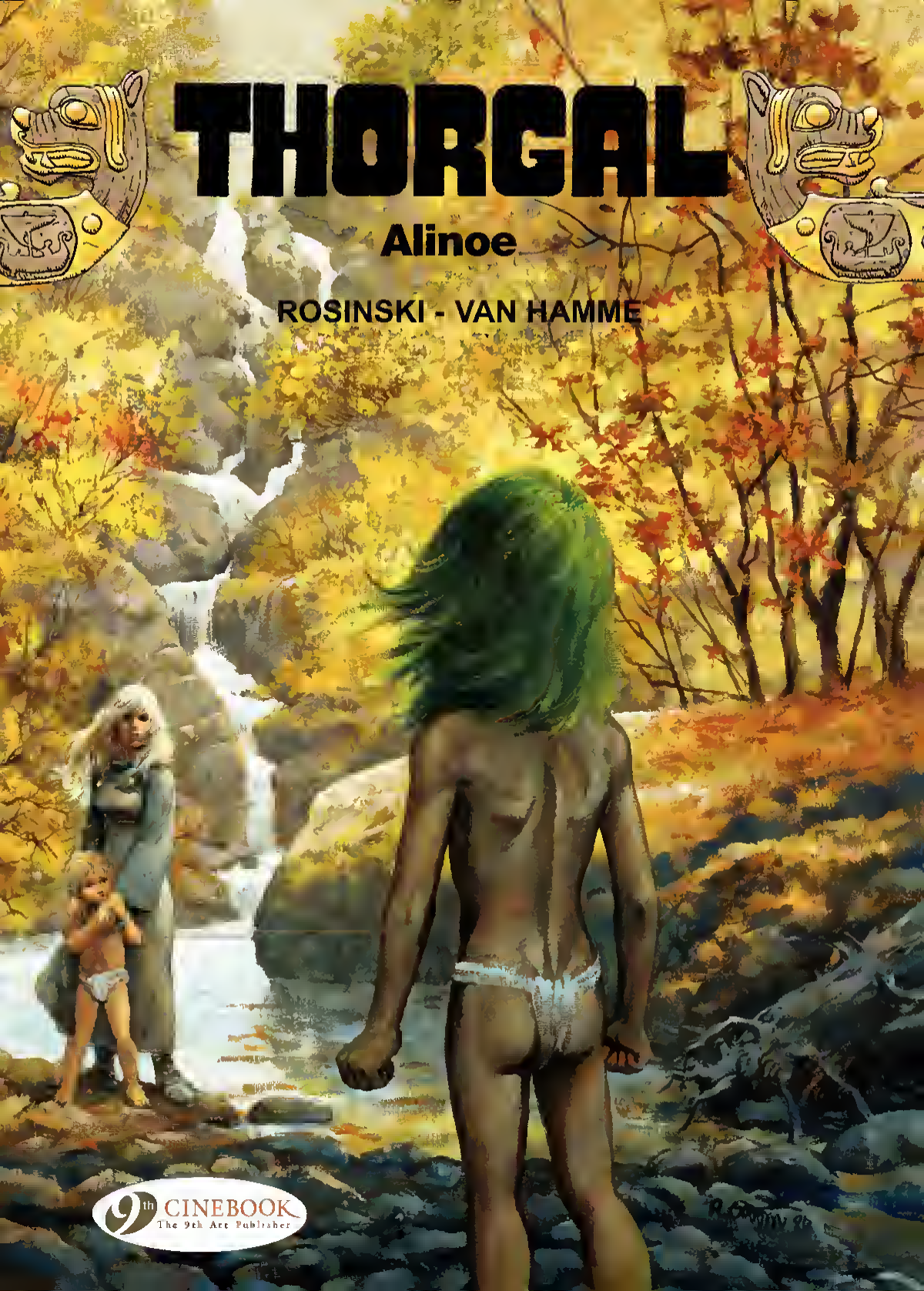

THORGAL
The Archers
ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME
9th CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher


THORGAL
Alinoe
ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME
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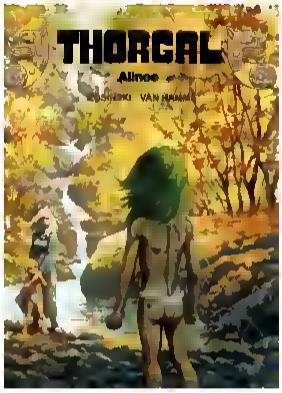
This two-volume book includes:



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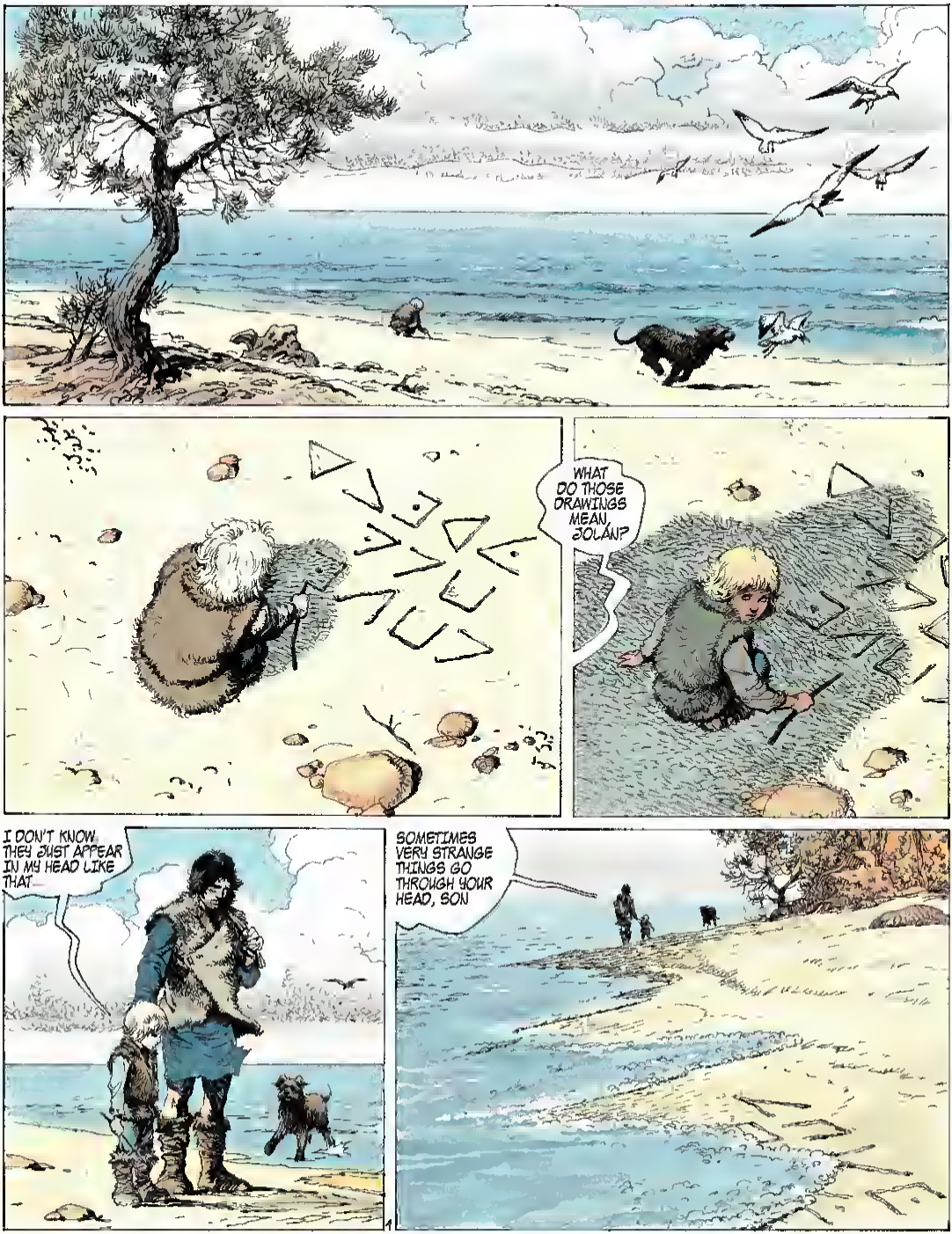
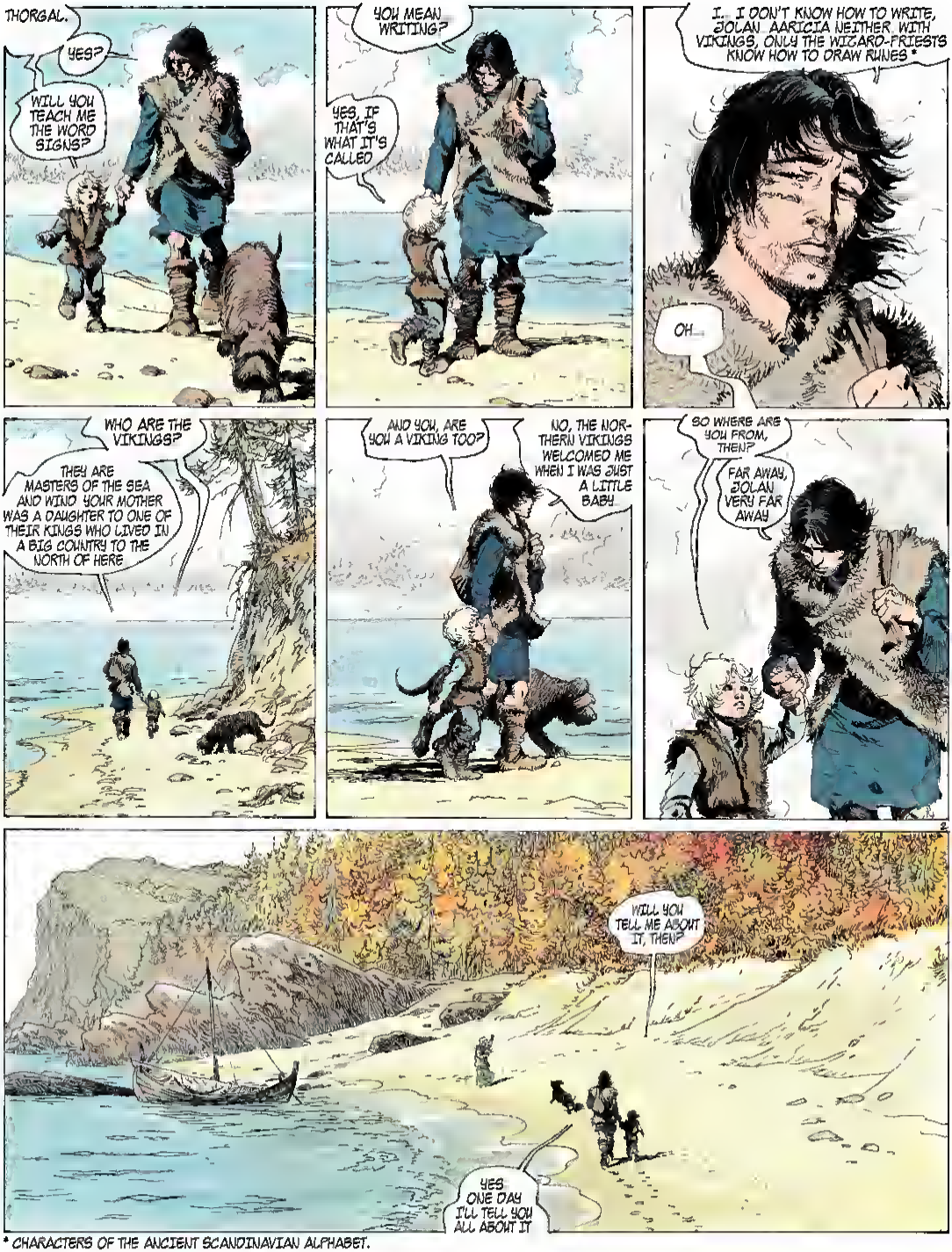
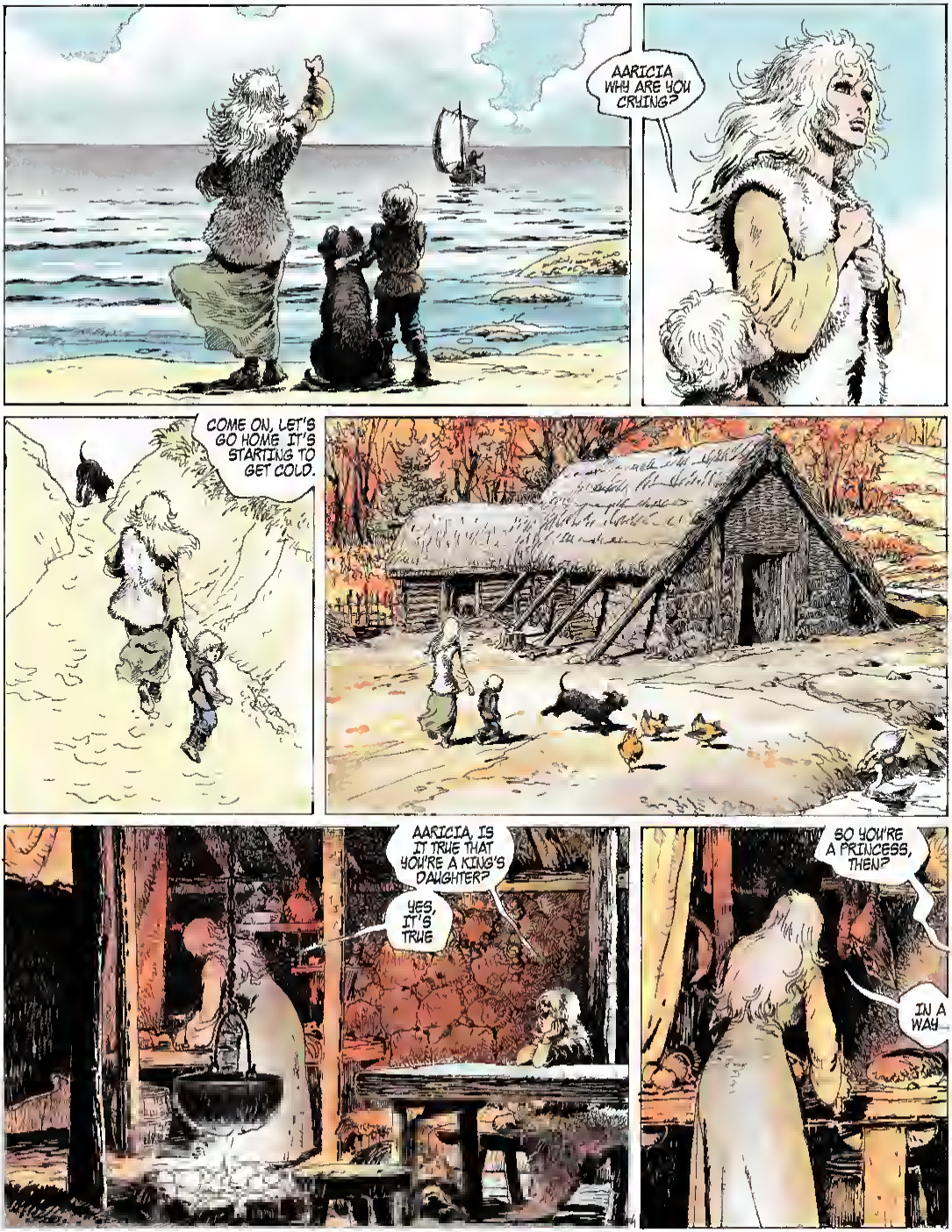
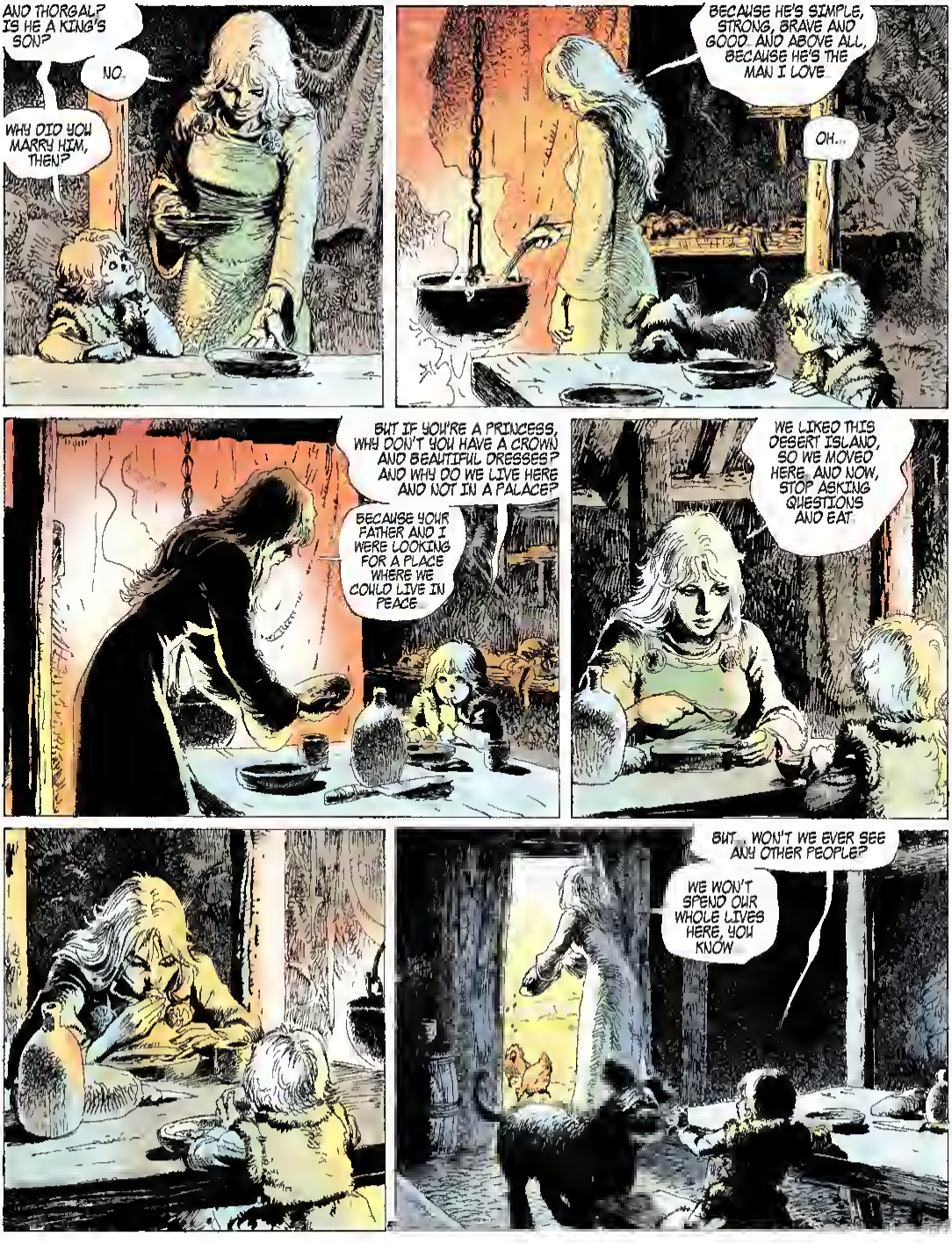

WHAT DO THOSE DRAWINGS MEAN, JOLAN?
I DON'T KNOW. THEY JUST APPEAR IN MY HEAD LIKE THAT
SOMETIMES VERY STRANGE THINGS GO THROUGH YOUR HEAD, SON


THORGAL.
YES?
WILL YOU TEACH ME THE WORD SIGNS?
YOU MEAN WRITING?
YES, IF THAT'S WHAT IT'S CALLED
I... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE, JOLAN AARICIA NEITHER. WITH VIKINGS, ONLY THE WIZARD-PRIESTS KNOW HOW TO DRAW RUNES *
OH...
WHO ARE THE VIKINGS?
THEY ARE MASTERS OF THE SEA AND WIND. YOUR MOTHER WAS A DAUGHTER TO ONE OF THEIR KINGS WHO LIVED IN A BIG COUNTRY TO THE NORTH OF HERE
AND YOU, ARE YOU A VIKING TOO?
NO, THE NORTHERN VIKINGS WELCOMED ME WHEN I WAS JUST A LITTLE BABY
SO WHERE ARE YOU FROM, THEN?
FAR AWAY, JOLAN. VERY FAR AWAY
WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT, THEN?
YES. ONE DAY I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT

* CHARACTERS OF THE ANCIENT SCANDINAVIAN ALPHABET.

I DON'T LIKE TO SEE YOU LEAVE, THORGAL
YOU KNOW THAT WE NEED FLOUR AND WARM CLOTHING, AARICIA. WINTER'S NEAR
I'LL ONLY BE GONE FOR TWO DAYS THREE AT THE MOST, IF THE WINDS ARE AGAINST ME. AND THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE GONE TO THE CONTINENT.
NO WOMAN LIKES TO BE LEFT ALONE, MY LOVE.
BAH, THERE'S NO DANGER. THE ISLAND IS DESERTED. AND YOU'LL HAVE BOLAN TO PROTECT YOU.
YOU HEAR THAT, LAD? YOU'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOTHER WHILE I'M AWAY, EH?
OF COURSE


AARICIA WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD.
AARICIA, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE A KING'S DAUGHTER?
YES, IT'S TRUE
SO YOU'RE A PRINCESS, THEN?
IN A WAY


AND THORGAL? IS HE A KING'S SON?
NO.
WHY DID YOU MARRY HIM, THEN?
BECAUSE HE'S SIMPLE, STRONG, BRAVE AND GOOD. AND ABOVE ALL, BECAUSE HE'S THE MAN I LOVE
OH...
BUT IF YOU'RE A PRINCESS, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A CROWN AND BEAUTIFUL DRESSES? AND WHY DO WE LIVE HERE AND NOT IN A PALACE?
BECAUSE YOUR FATHER AND I WERE LOOKING FOR A PLACE WHERE WE COULD LIVE IN PEACE
WE LIKED THIS DESERT ISLAND, SO WE MOVED HERE. AND NOW, STOP ASKING QUESTIONS AND EAT
BUT... WON'T WE EVER SEE ANY OTHER PEOPLE?
WE WON'T SPEND OUR WHOLE LIVES HERE, YOU KNOW

IN A FEW YEARS, WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, YOU'LL SEE OTHER PEOPLE, HONEY. MAYBE MORE THAN YOU WOULD LIKE TO. NOW GO AND HAVE A WASH BEFORE BED.
AARICIA..
WHAT NOW?
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A FRIEND TO PLAY WITH
!?
BUT YOU HAVE MUFF. ISN'T MUFF YOUR FRIEND?
YEAH, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME.
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A REAL FRIEND TOO.
OR A LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER
OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN HAVE THEM, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
MOST OF THEM DO, THAT'S TRUE

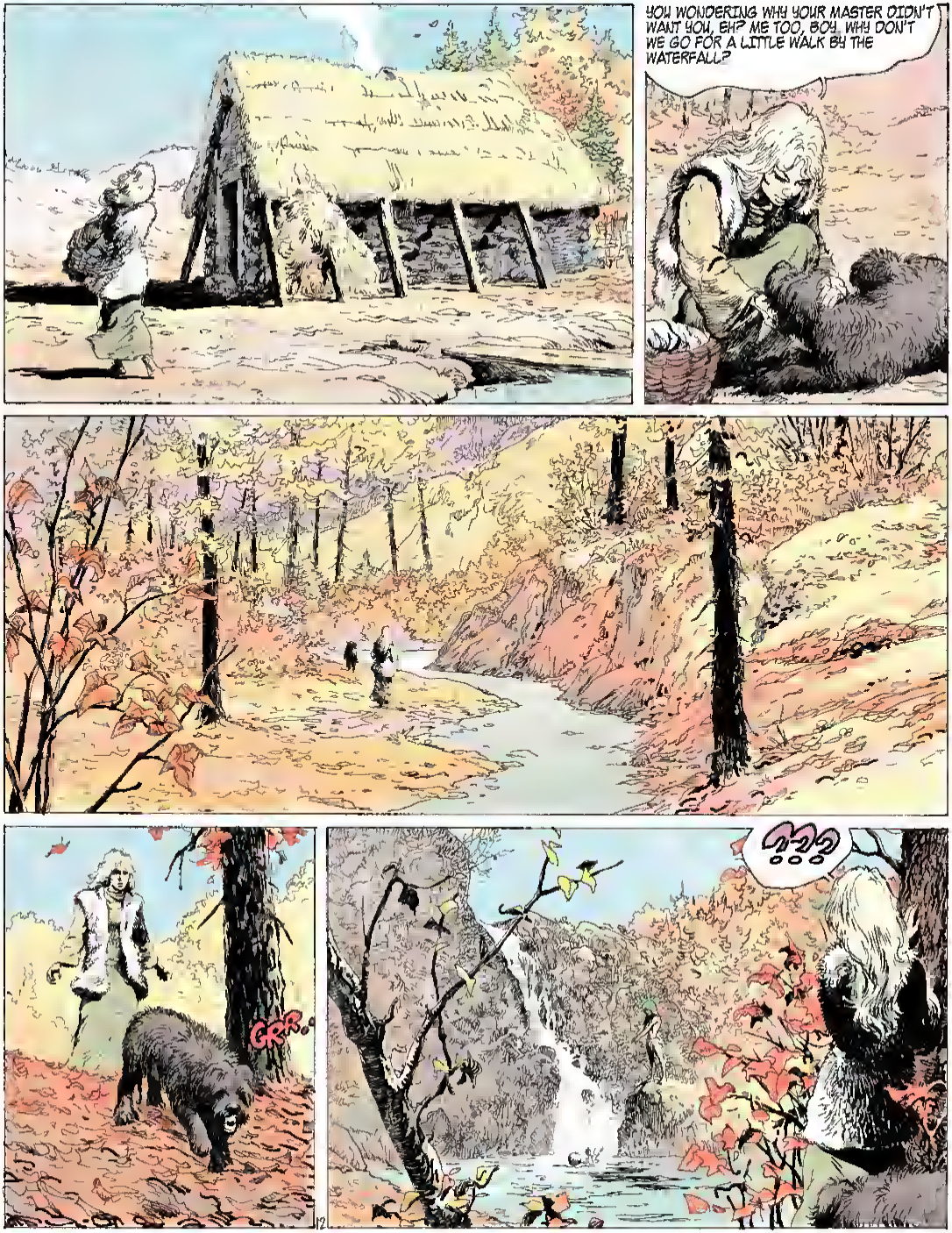
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU WERE BORN, I I WAS VERY ILL. THORGAL AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFER TO WAIT A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE HAVING ANOTHER CHILD
DOES THAT MEAN I'LL NEVER HAVE BROTHERS OR SISTERS?
IT JUST MEANS YOU WON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT AWAY, THAT'S ALL
AND NOW SLEEP, DARLING. TOMORROW MORNING COULD I ASK YOU TO GO FISHING FOR OUR MEAL?
ALL RIGHT.
BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO HAVE A REAL FRIEND TO PLAY WITH
SLEEP, LITTLE JOLAN, SON OF THE LAST CHILD OF THE STARS, AND ASK THE GODS THAT THE OTHER PEOPLE, AS YOU CALL THEM, NEVER DISCOVER THE UNKNOWN FORCES WITHIN YOU
MUFF!?

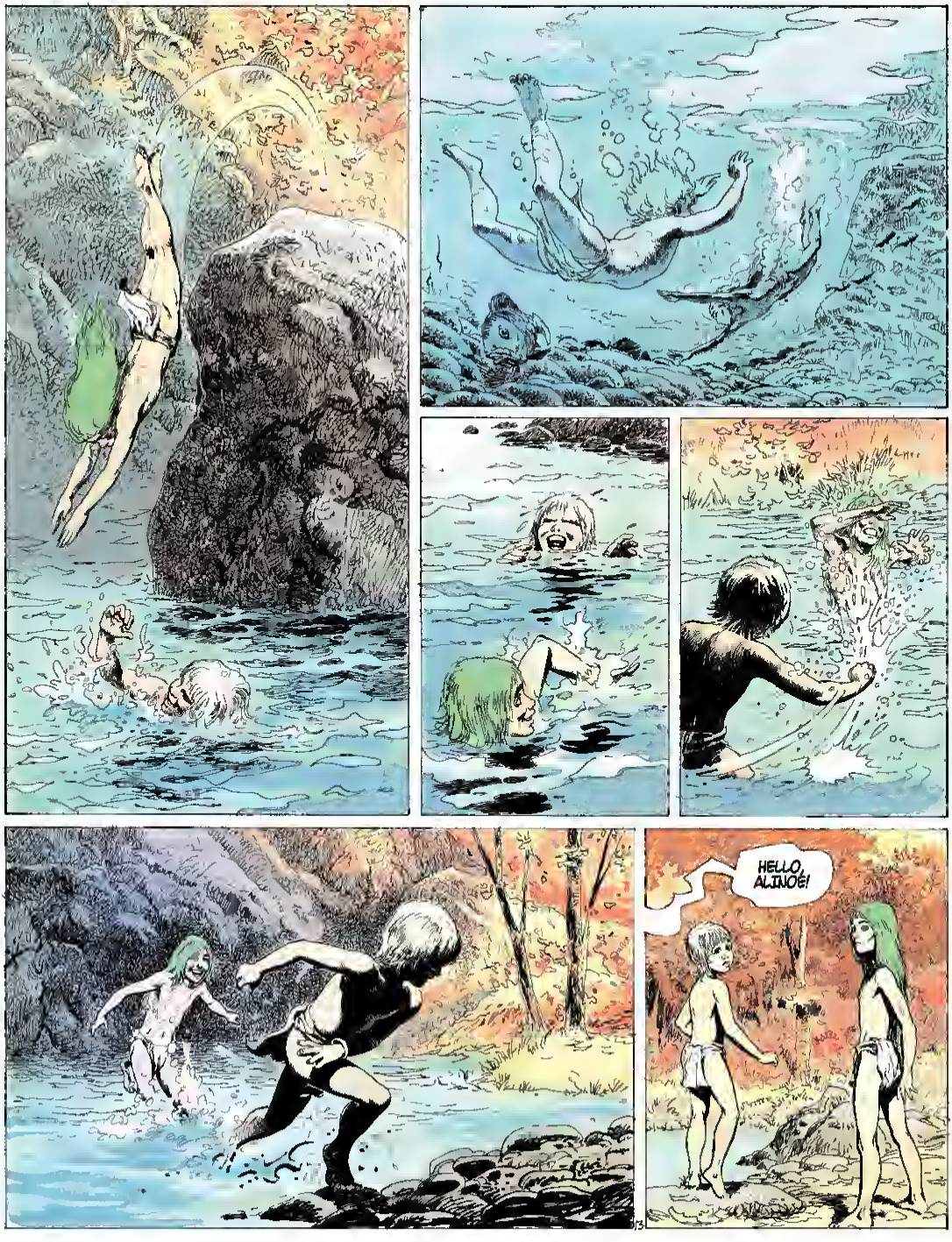
MUFF... YOU'RE ALL ALONE? WHERE'S JOLAN? BY FRIGG, WHAT IF...
JOLAN! JOLAN!
?!
WHERE'S JOLAN, MUFF? WHERE DID HE GO TO FISH?
FIND JOLAN, MUFF! FIND HIM!
!!

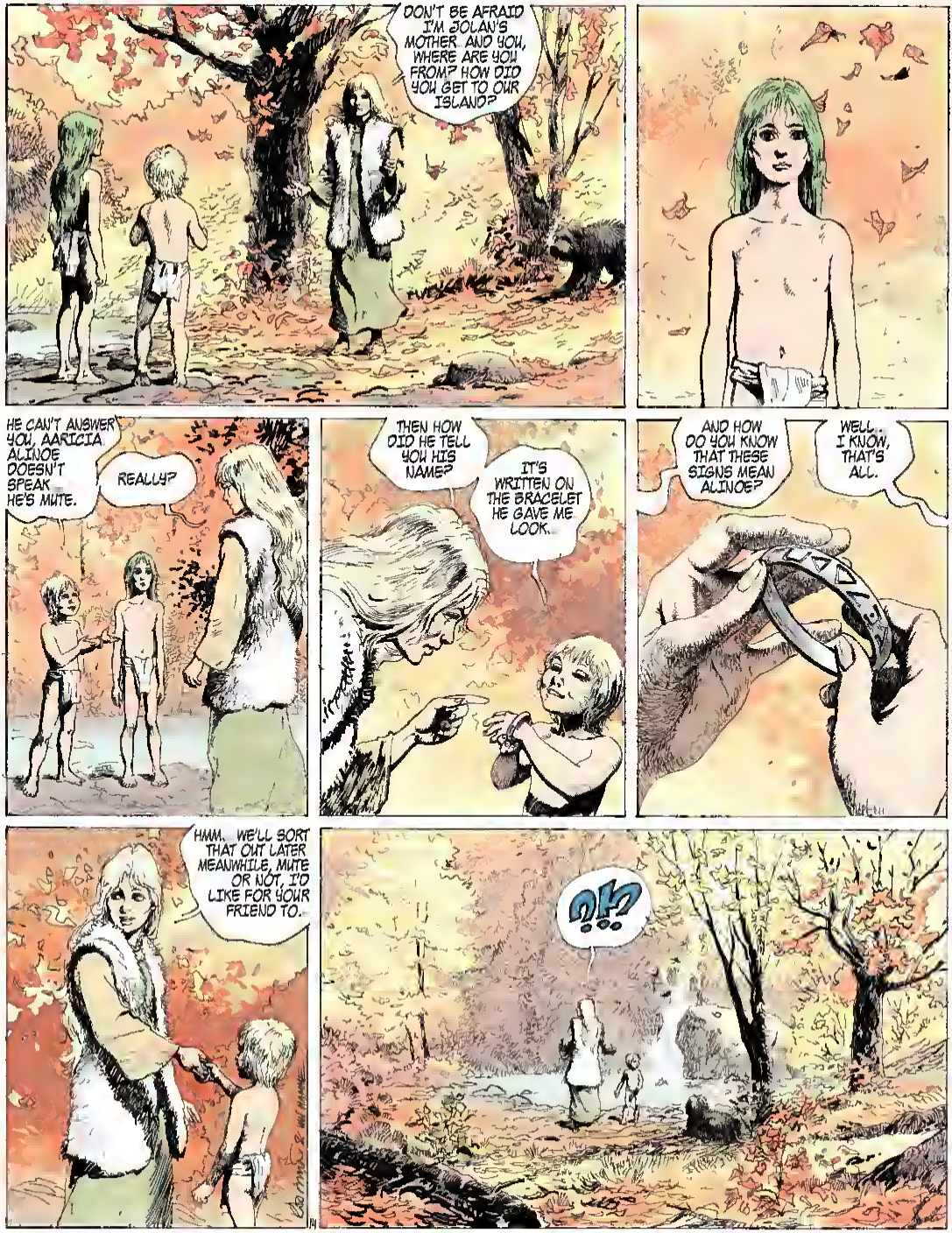
JOLAN, MY DEAR, YOU SCARED ME SO MUCH!
WHY?
I CAME HERE BECAUSE IT'S EASIER TO CATCH FISH. LOOK AT WHAT I'VE ALREADY CAUGHT.
IT'S BECAUSE OF MUFF THAT.
WHERE'D YOU FIND THIS BRACELET, JOLAN?
OH, THAT BRACELET.
IT'S... ERR... ALINOE WHO GAVE IT TO ME.
ALINOE?! AND WHO THE DEVIL IS ALINOE?
HE'S... ERR... A BOY I SAW THIS MORNING. WE BOTH HAD A LOT OF FUN.
?!?
QUICK, LET'S GO BACK!
!?

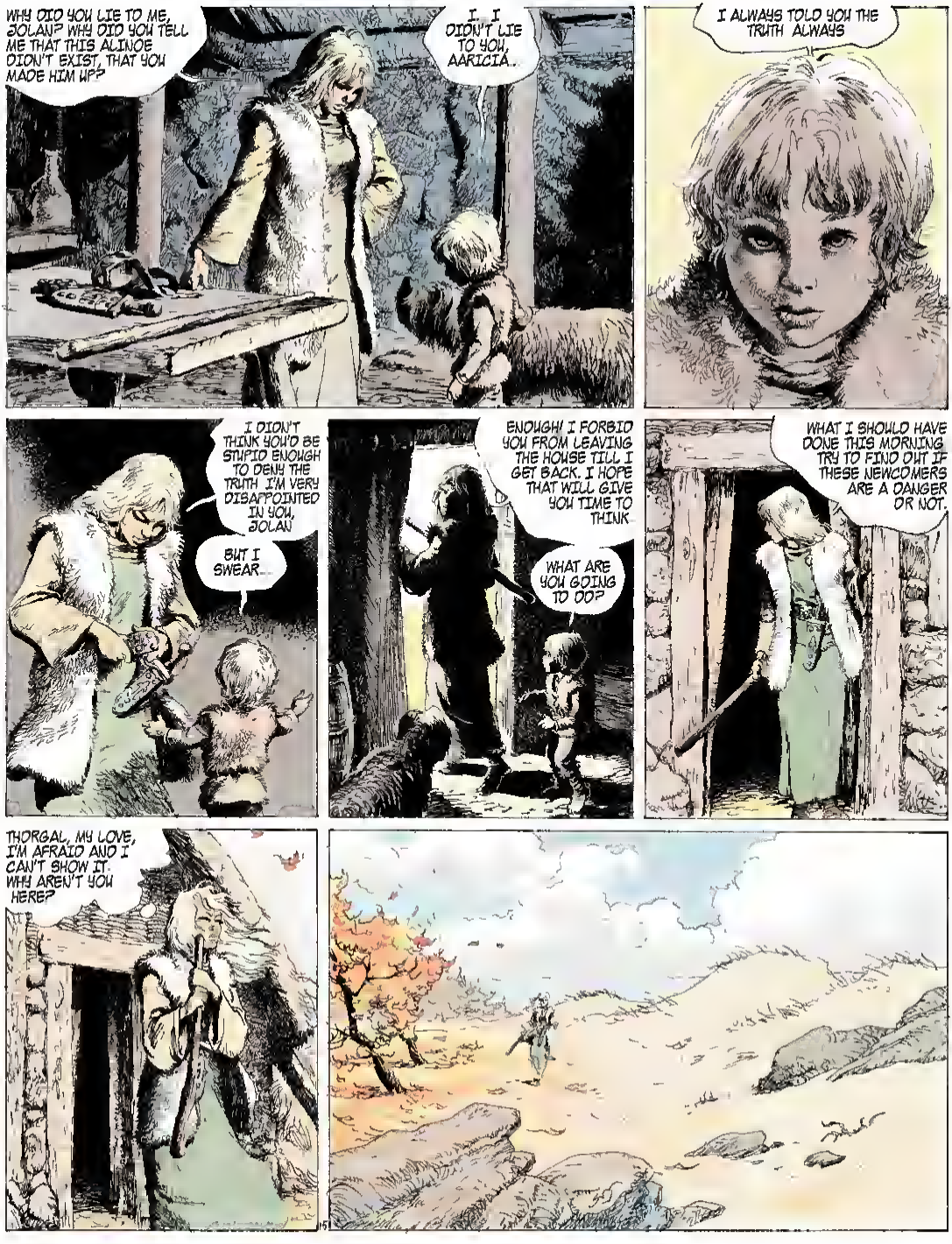
WHO WAS THAT BOY, JOLAN? WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
I . I DON'T KNOW HE GAVE ME THE BRACELET AND THEN WE PLAYED TOGETHER, THAT'S ALL
HOW WAS HE? WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
WELL . HE WAS OLDER THAN ME . WITH VERY WHITE SKIN, DARK BLACK EYES AND GREEN HAIR...
GREEN?!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GREEN HAIR!
WELL HIS HAIR WAS GREEN, THAT'S HOW IT IS
GREEN HAIR OR NOT, THIS BOY COULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS ISLAND ALONE. YOU STAY HERE WITH MUFF AND WAIT FOR ME TO COME BACK. DON'T GO ANYWHERE
OH.
ERR AARICIA -
YES?
I . I WAS TELLING TALES. THE BRACELET, I FOUND IT IN THE SAND AND ALINOE, I I MADE HIM UP.
HA HA HA

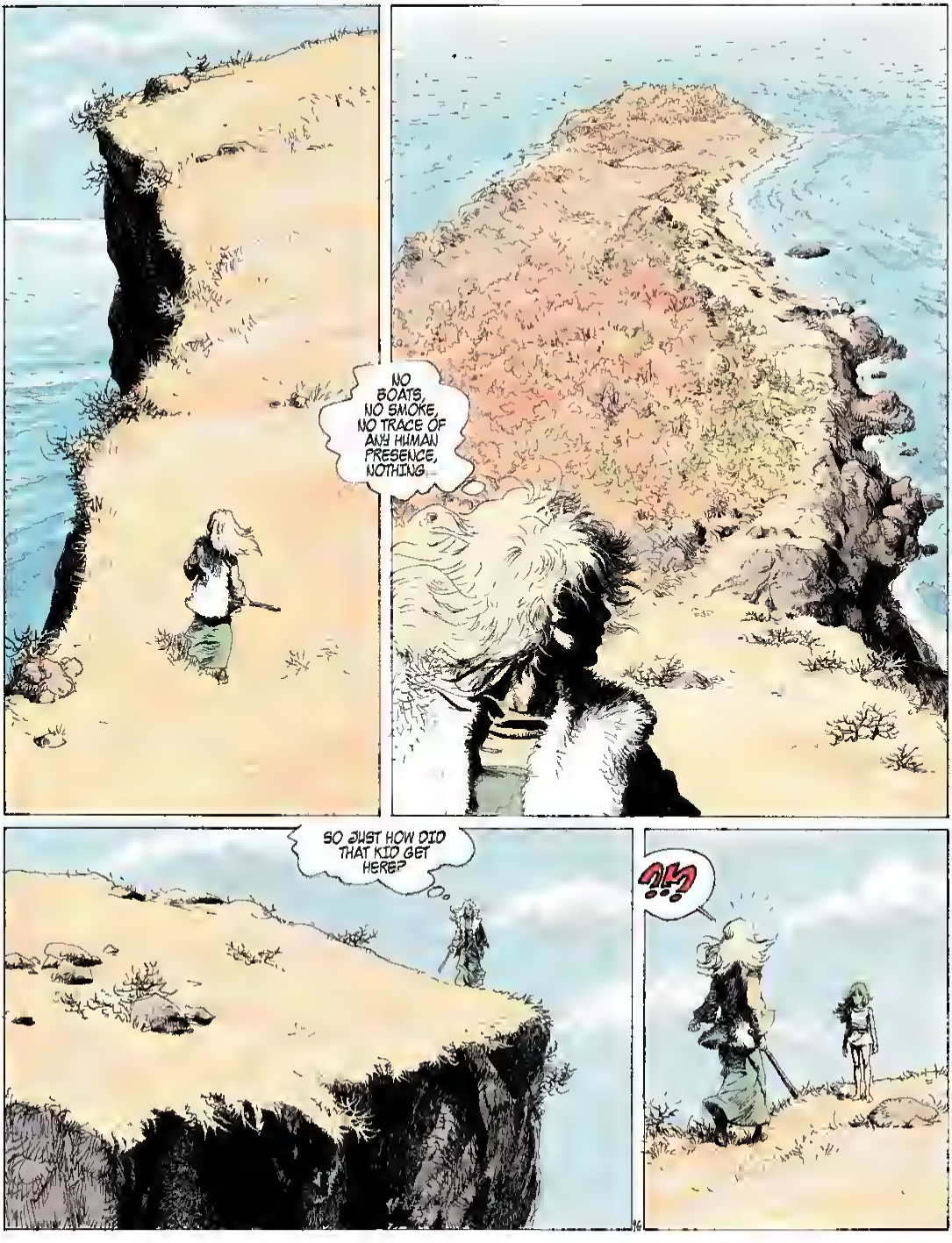
YOUR ALINOE JUST EXISTS IN YOUR HEAD, THEN?
WELL, YES I HAD THE IDEA WHEN I FOUND THE BRACELET
I WOULD HAVE LIKED FOR A REAL FRIEND TO GIVE IT TO ME... A REAL FRIEND WHO WOULD BE OLDER THAN ME AND WHO WOULD HAVE GREEN HAIR...
SOMEONE I COULD PLAY WITH...
MY POOR DEAR! AND THERE I WAS, ARMED LIKE A VALKYRIE!
I'LL TALK TO THORGAL. MAYBE WE CAN FIND A FAMILY WITH CHILDREN WHO'D LIKE TO COME AND LIVE ON THE ISLAND WITH US. BUT PROMISE ME YOU WON'T MAKE UP ANY TALES LIKE THAT AGAIN, ALL RIGHT?
I PROMISE YOU, AARICIA
THE FISH WAS DELICIOUS, JOLAN
CAN I GO AND SWIM BY THE WATERFALL?
OF COURSE
NO, MUFF. YOU STAY HERE. I WANT TO GO AND SWIM ON MY OWN
!?


YOU WONDERING WHY YOUR MASTER DIDN'T WANT YOU, EH? ME TOO, BOY. WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A LITTLE WALK BY THE WATERFALL?
GRR.
GRR...


HELLO, ALINOÉ!

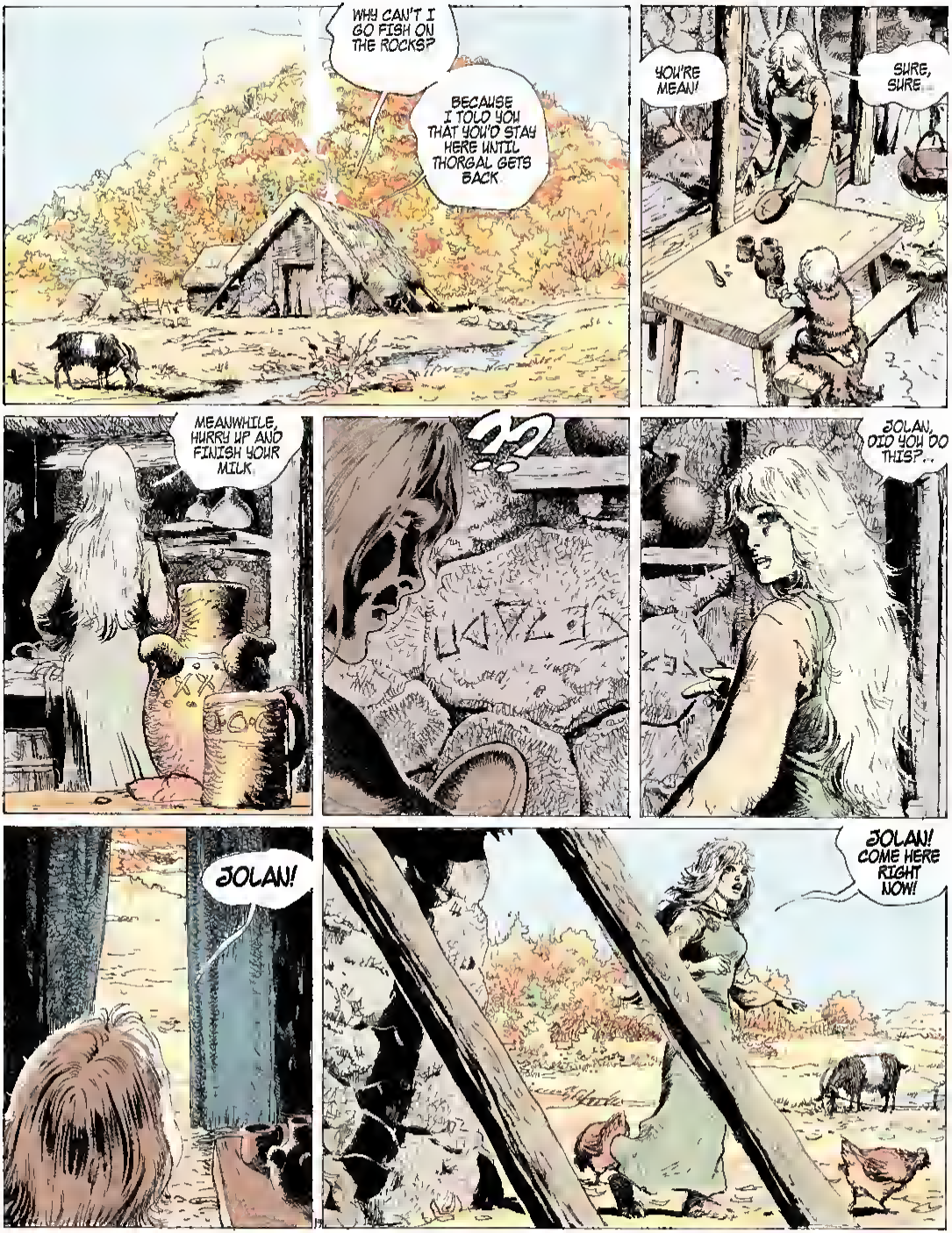

DON'T BE AFRAID I'M SOLAN'S MOTHER. AND YOU, WHERE ARE YOU FROM? HOW DID YOU GET TO OUR ISLAND?
HE CAN'T ANSWER YOU, AARICIA. ALINOE DOESN'T SPEAK. HE'S MUTE.
REALLY?
THEN HOW DID HE TELL YOU HIS NAME?
IT'S WRITTEN ON THE BRACELET HE GAVE ME. LOOK.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THESE SIGNS MEAN ALINOE?
WELL... I KNOW, THAT'S ALL.
HMM. WE'LL SORT THAT OUT LATER. MEANWHILE, MUTE OR NOT, I'D LIKE FOR YOUR FRIEND TO.
?!?


WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME, JOLAN? WHY DID YOU TELL ME THAT THIS ALINOE DIDN'T EXIST, THAT YOU MADE HIM UP?
I... I DIDN'T LIE TO YOU, AARICIA..
I ALWAYS TOLD YOU THE TRUTH ALWAYS
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO DENY THE TRUTH I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, JOLAN
BUT I SWEAR...
ENOUGH! I FORBID YOU FROM LEAVING THE HOUSE TILL I GET BACK. I HOPE THAT WILL GIVE YOU TIME TO THINK
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS MORNING TRY TO FIND OUT IF THESE NEWCOMERS ARE A DANGER OR NOT.
THORGAL, MY LOVE, I'M AFRAID AND I CAN'T SHOW IT. WHY AREN'T YOU HERE?


NO BOATS, NO SMOKE, NO TRACE OF ANY HUMAN PRESENCE, NOTHING...
SO JUST HOW DID THAT KID GET HERE?
EH?!

HAVE NO FEAR, ALINOE. I WON'T HURT YOU. I JUST WANT TO...
NO, DON'T...
NO!
ALMIGHTY ODIN, I BEG YOU, LET THIS ALL BE A HORRIBLE DREAM!

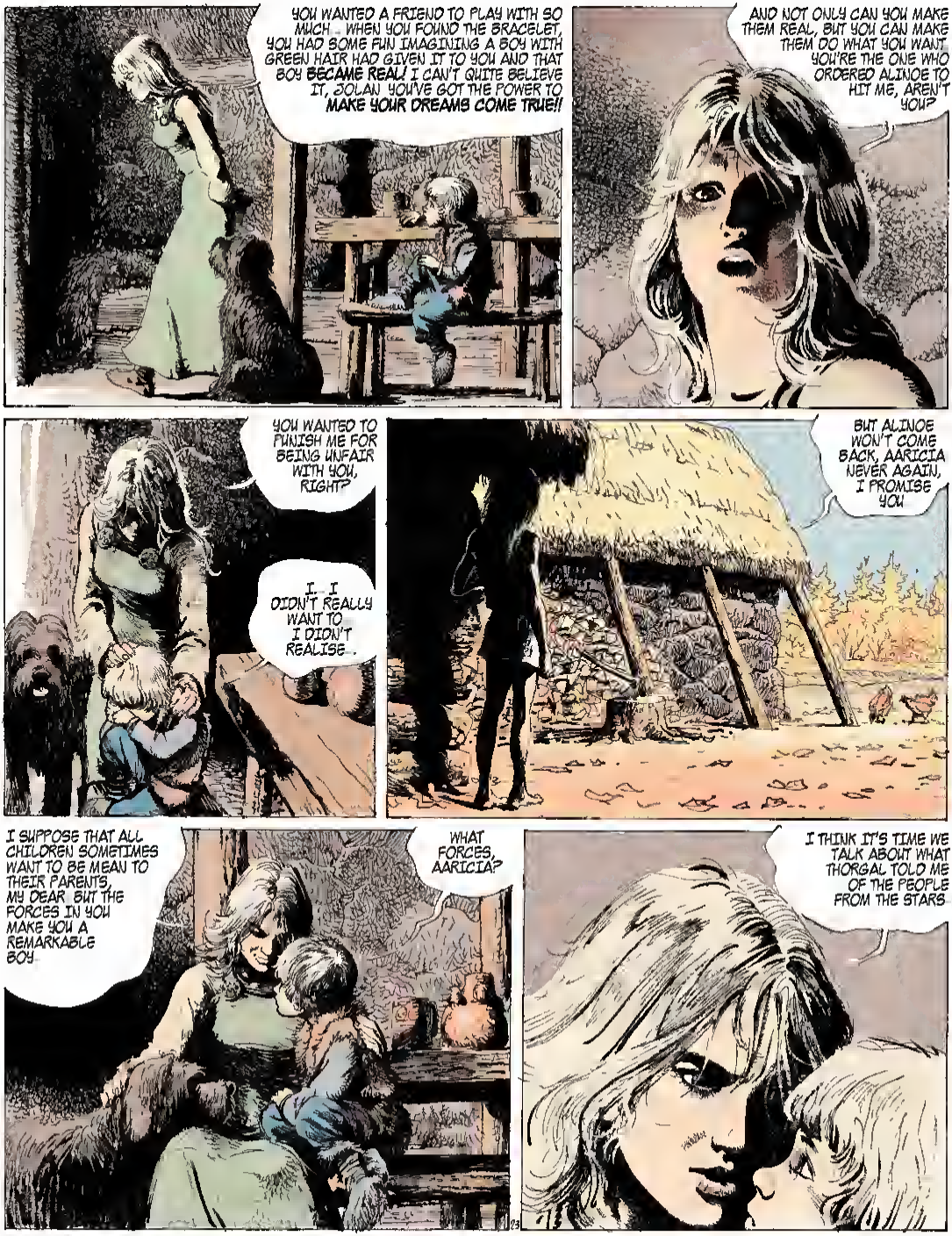
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?
NO...
AND YOU SAY THAT I'M TELLING LIES...
!?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON ON THIS ISLAND, BUT I'M SURE OF ONE THING: YOU WON'T BE LEAVING THE HOUSE TILL THORGAL RETURNS.
WHY!?
BECAUSE! AND FOR A START, GIVE ME THAT BRACELET!
NO!
VERY WELL. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, YOU'LL GO TO BED WITHOUT EATING.
I DON'T CARE!

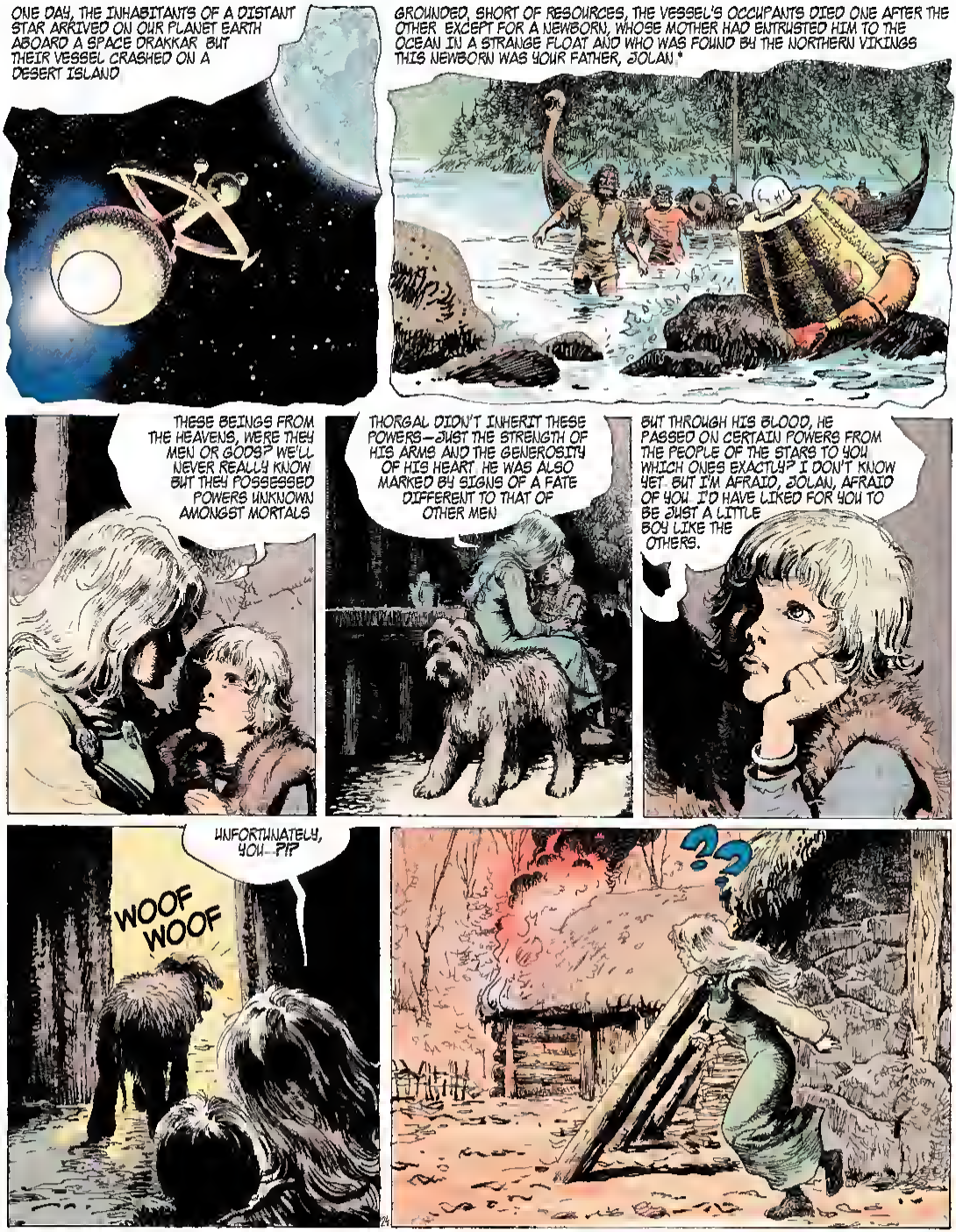

WHY CAN'T I GO FISH ON THE ROCKS?
BECAUSE I TOLD YOU THAT YOU'D STAY HERE UNTIL THORGAL GETS BACK
YOU'RE MEAN!
SURE, SURE...
MEANWHILE, HURRY UP AND FINISH YOUR MILK.
??
JOLAN, DID YOU DO THIS?...
JOLAN!
JOLAN! COME HERE RIGHT NOW!

JOLAN, I'M WARNING YOU THAT I..
?
ALINOE!? IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!.. I SAW YOU..
HEY! WHAT!...
ARE YOU CRAZY!? WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU..
AAAAH!

I MUST BE GOING CRAZY..
YOU DESERVED THAT!

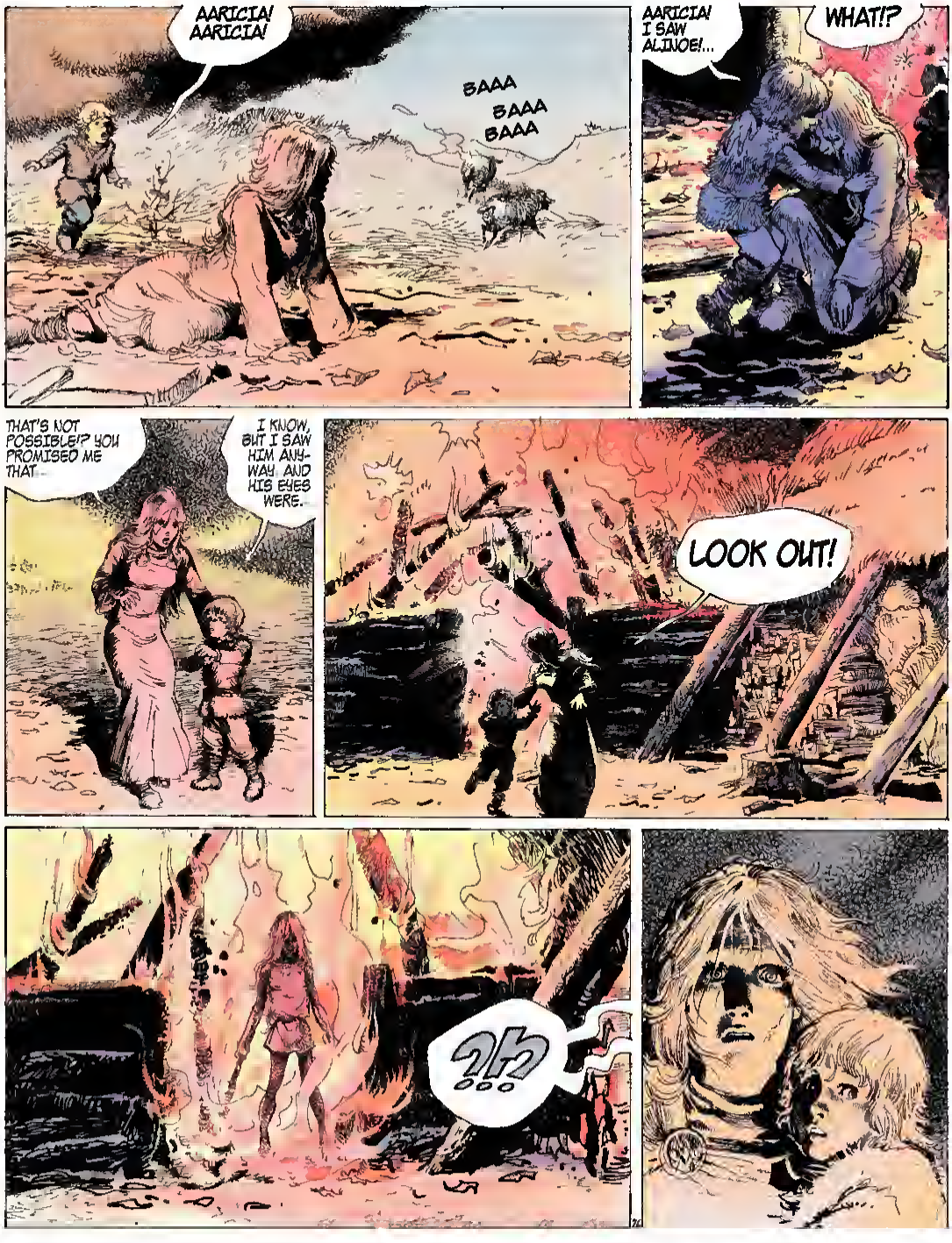
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
I SAID THAT YOU DESERVED THAT. BECAUSE YOU WERE MEAN
I'M SORRY, AARICIA. I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
ANSWER ME, HONEY IT'S VERY IMPORTANT ABOUT THAT BRACELET YOU DIDN'T LIE TO ME, DID YOU?
NO, I PROMISE YOU... IT HAPPENED JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF. ALINOE DOESN'T REALLY EXIST
IT'S YOU IMAGINING HIM!


YOU WANTED A FRIEND TO PLAY WITH SO MUCH - WHEN YOU FOUND THE BRACELET, YOU HAD SOME FUN IMAGINING A BOY WITH GREEN HAIR HAD GIVEN IT TO YOU AND THAT BOY BECAME REAL! I CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE IT, JOLAN YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!!
AND NOT ONLY CAN YOU MAKE THEM REAL, BUT YOU CAN MAKE THEM DO WHAT YOU WANT. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ORDERED ALINOE TO HIT ME, AREN'T YOU?
YOU WANTED TO PUNISH ME FOR BEING UNFAIR WITH YOU, RIGHT?
I... I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO I DIDN'T REALISE...
BUT ALINOE WON'T COME BACK, AARICIA NEVER AGAIN, I PROMISE YOU
I SUPPOSE THAT ALL CHILDREN SOMETIMES WANT TO BE MEAN TO THEIR PARENTS, MY DEAR. BUT THE FORCES IN YOU MAKE YOU A REMARKABLE BOY.
WHAT FORCES, AARICIA?
I THINK IT'S TIME WE TALK ABOUT WHAT THORGAL TOLD ME OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE STARS.


ONE DAY, THE INHABITANTS OF A DISTANT STAR ARRIVED ON OUR PLANET EARTH ABOARD A SPACE DRAKKAR BUT THEIR VESSEL CRASHED ON A DESERT ISLAND
GROUNDED, SHORT OF RESOURCES, THE VESSEL'S OCCUPANTS DIED ONE AFTER THE OTHER EXCEPT FOR A NEWBORN, WHOSE MOTHER HAD ENTRUSTED HIM TO THE OCEAN IN A STRANGE FLOAT AND WHO WAS FOUND BY THE NORTHERN VIKINGS THIS NEWBORN WAS YOUR FATHER, JOLAN.*
THESE BEINGS FROM THE HEAVENS, WERE THEY MEN OR GODS? WE'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW BUT THEY POSSESSED POWERS UNKNOWN AMONGST MORTALS
THORGAL DIDN'T INHERIT THESE POWERS—JUST THE STRENGTH OF HIS ARMS AND THE GENEROSITY OF HIS HEART. HE WAS ALSO MARKED BY SIGNS OF A FATE DIFFERENT TO THAT OF OTHER MEN
BUT THROUGH HIS BLOOD, HE PASSED ON CERTAIN POWERS FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE STARS TO YOU. WHICH ONES EXACTLY? I DON'T KNOW YET. BUT I'M AFRAID, JOLAN, AFRAID OF YOU. I'D HAVE LIKED FOR YOU TO BE JUST A LITTLE BOY LIKE THE OTHERS.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU—?!?
WOOF WOOF
??

* SEE *CHILD OF THE STARS*

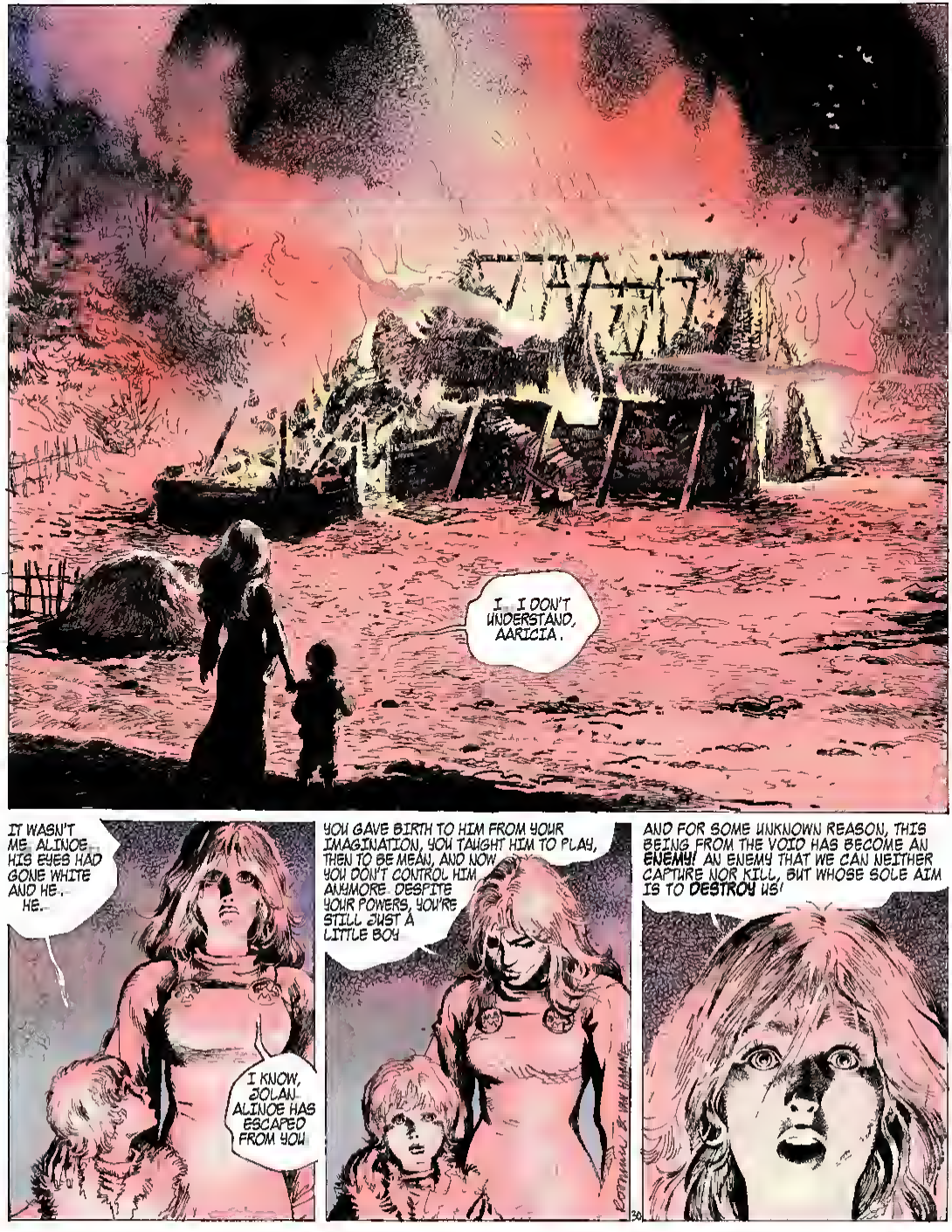
GO FETCH SOME WATER, QUICK!
BAAA
BAAA
BAAA
BAAA
BAAA
THE SHEEP ARE INSIDE! WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?..
BAAA
JOLAN, HURRY UP!
AAAAH


AARICIA! AARICIA!
BAAA BAAA BAAA
AARICIA! I SAW ALINOE!...
WHAT!?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!? YOU PROMISED ME THAT...
I KNOW, BUT I SAW HIM ANY-WAY. AND HIS EYES WERE...
LOOK OUT!
?!?

ALINOE, I ORDER YOU TO...
BUT...
JOLAN!
YOU LITTLE MONSTER!.
REAL OR NOT, YOU'LL GET THE PUNISHMENT YOU DESERVE!
AARICIA! LOOK OUT!
??

H!
ALINOE, NO!
MUFF!
AAAH

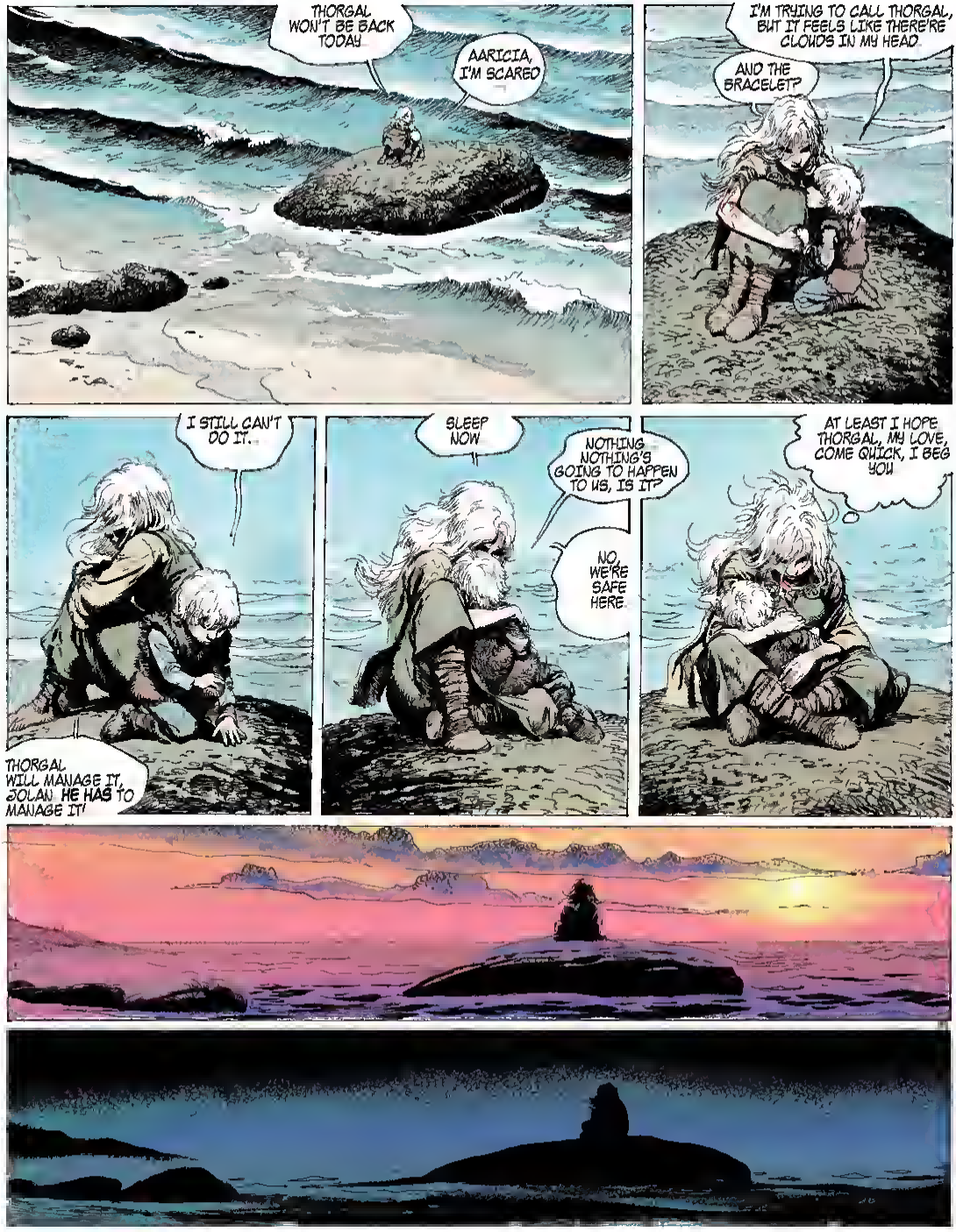
JOLAN! MUFF!
JOLAN!
IT'S THE GOAT'S ROPE . I ATTACHED IT TO A STAKE
QUICK, AARICIA! THE HOUSE!..


I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND, AARICIA.
IT WASN'T ME, ALINOE... HIS EYES HAD GONE WHITE AND HE... HE...
I KNOW, JOLAN. ALINOE HAS ESCAPED FROM YOU.
YOU GAVE BIRTH TO HIM FROM YOUR IMAGINATION, YOU TAUGHT HIM TO PLAY, THEN TO BE MEAN, AND NOW YOU DON'T CONTROL HIM ANYMORE. DESPITE YOUR POWERS, YOU'RE STILL JUST A LITTLE BOY
AND FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, THIS BEING FROM THE VOID HAS BECOME AN ENEMY! AN ENEMY THAT WE CAN NEITHER CAPTURE NOR KILL, BUT WHOSE SOLE AIM IS TO DESTROY US!
CONTINUED IN THE HUNTING
30

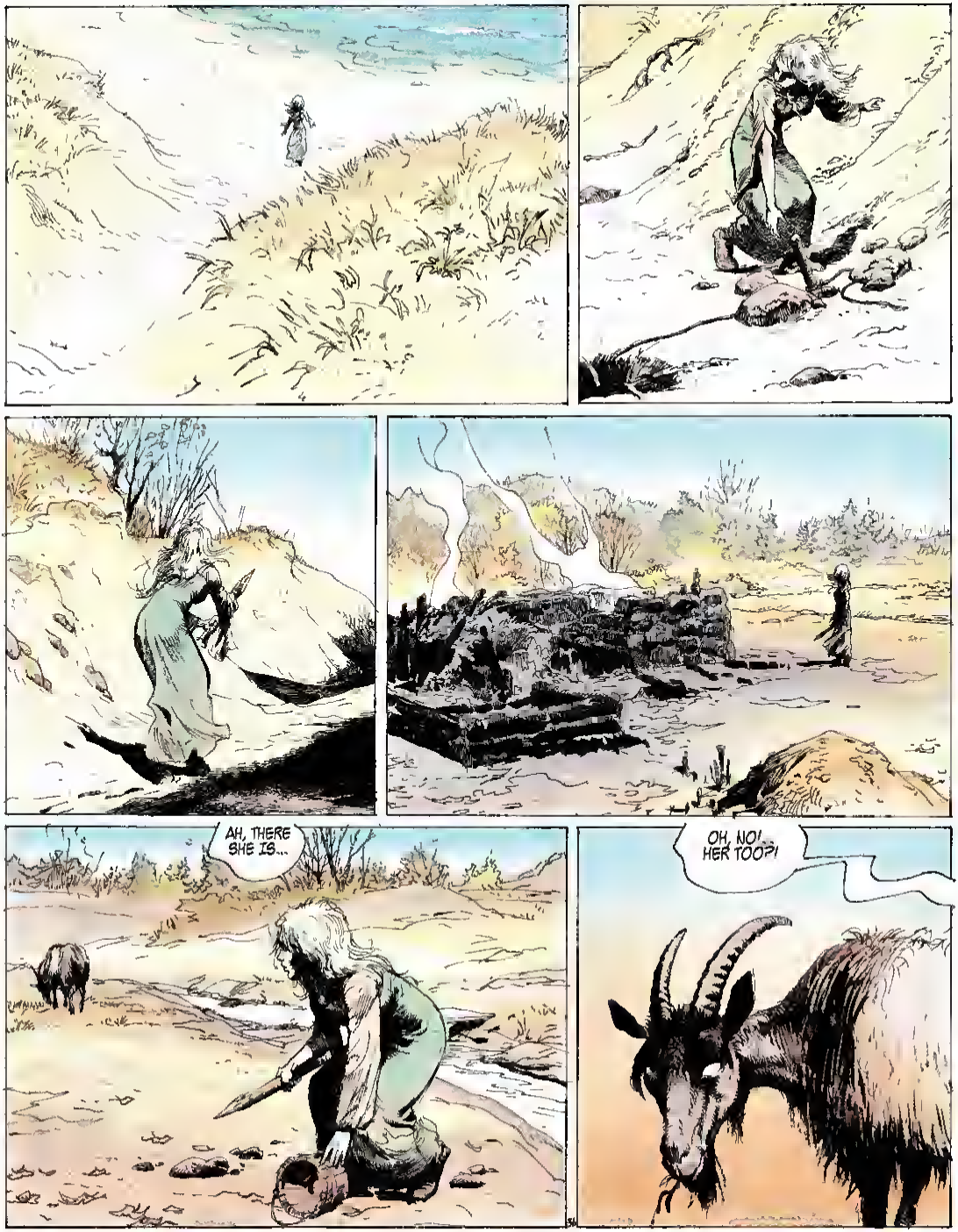
I WAS NAIVE TO THINK THAT LIVING ON A DESERTED ISLAND, WE'D BE SHELTERED FROM THE CURSE WITH WHICH THE GODS SEEM TO PURSUE US. SO MUCH EFFORT DESTROYED, SO MANY MONTHS OF WORK...
THORGAL WILL BE BACK SOON, RIGHT?
TODAY, FOR SURE. OR TOMORROW. YOU'RE OF THE SAME RACE, YOU AND HIM. I HOPE THAT HE'LL FIND A SOLUTION... IF WE'RE STILL HERE WHEN HE GETS BACK.
UNLESS... THIS BRACELET YOU FOUND... DID YOU ENGRAVE THE SIGNS ON IT?
NO, THEY WERE ALREADY THERE.
SO, I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THEY MEANT "ALINOE"?
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I KNOW. THAT'S HOW IT IS.
PERHAPS IT'S THE BRACELET BEHIND ALL THIS. TAKE IT OFF, QUICKLY, AND THROW IT IN THE SEA! QUICK!
I... I CAN'T DO IT NOW...
LET ME TRY.
BRROM
BRRRROM

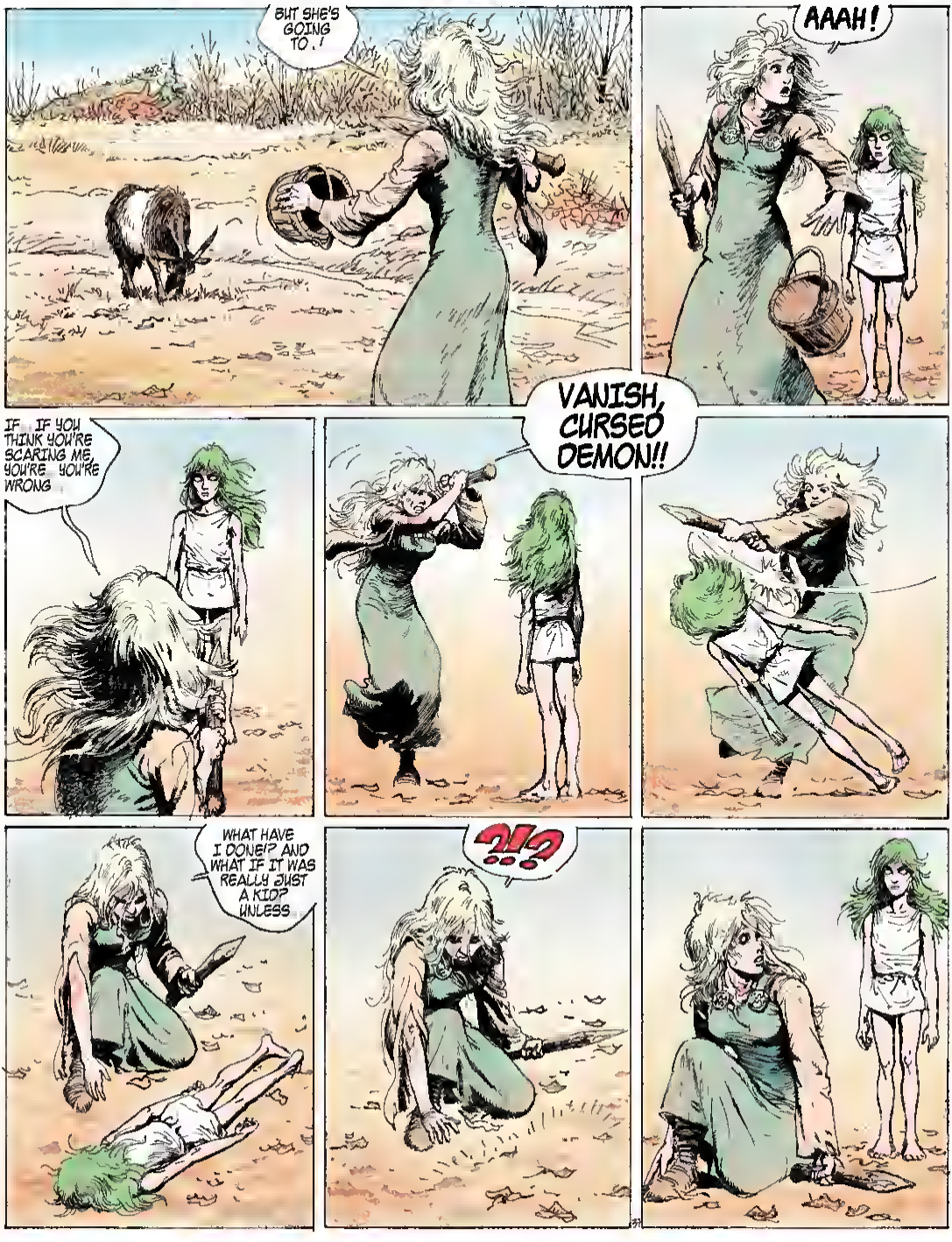
BRRROMM
BRROMM
AARICIA!... WHAT HAPPENED?..
LET'S GO BACK QUICKLY TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE HOUSE WE'LL FIND SOMETHING TO GET THAT CURSED BRACELET OFF
AAAH

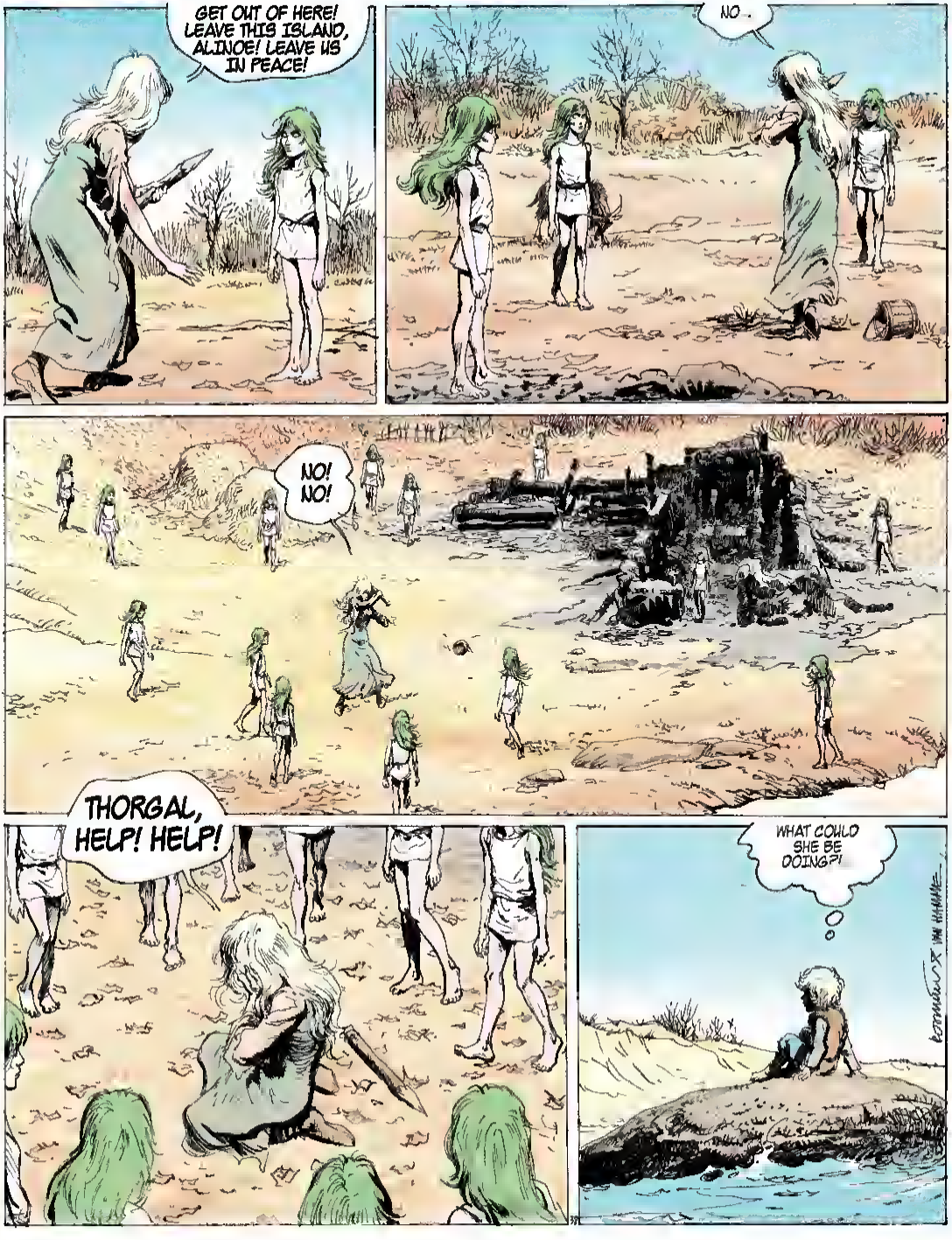
MUFF!
MUFF, ARE YOU MAD!? THAT'S AARICIA!
MUFF...
THE SAME EYES AS ALINOE, AARICIA, THE SAME EYES!
HE'S GOT HIM IN HIS POWER.
LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE HE TOUCHES, JOLAN. SOON THE WHOLE ISLAND WILL HAVE BECOME HIS ALLY...
BUT WHERE CAN WE GO, THEN?
ON THE LAST REFUGE LEFT TO US THERE!

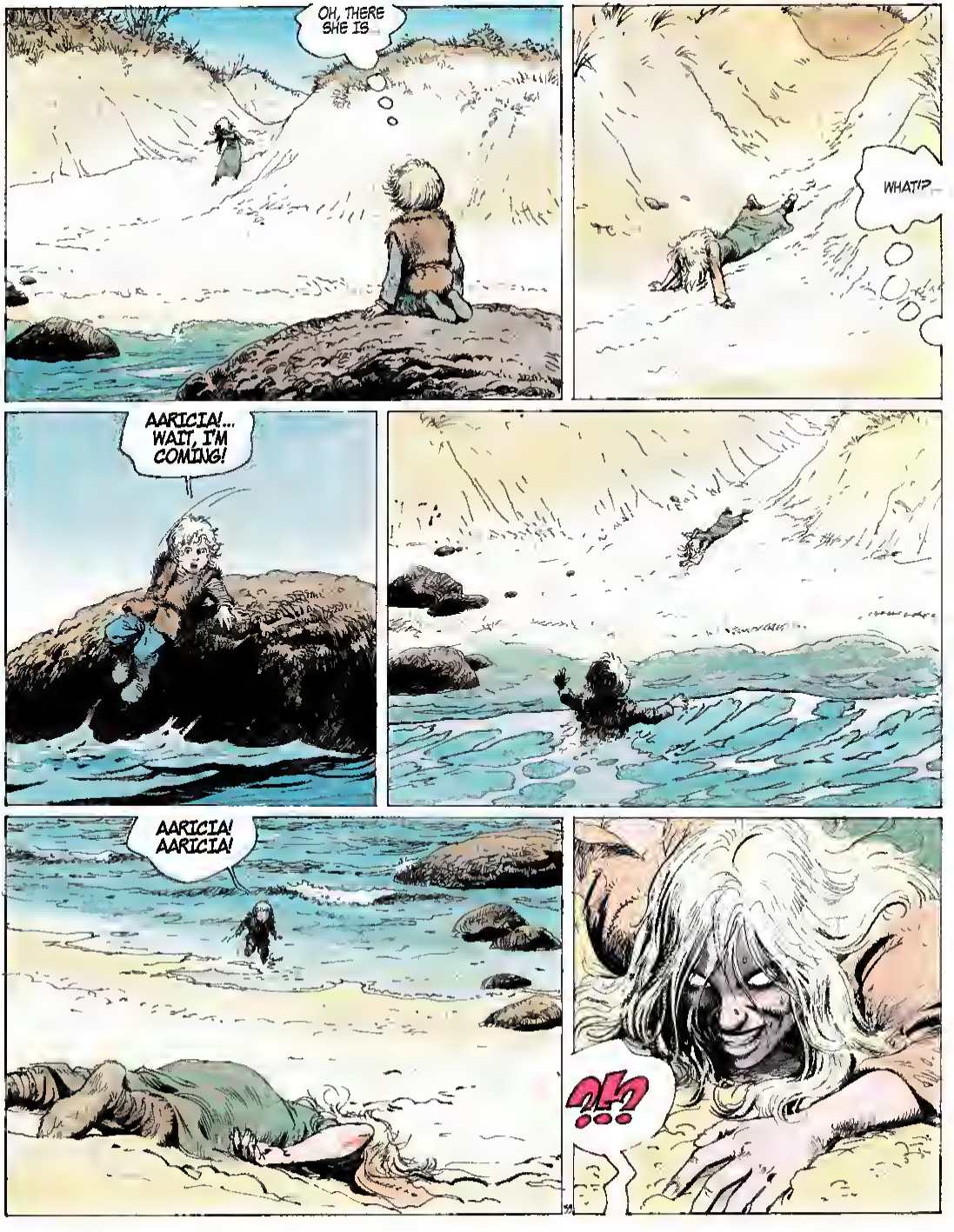

THORGAL WON'T BE BACK TODAY
AARICIA, I'M SCARED
I'M TRYING TO CALL THORGAL, BUT IT FEELS LIKE THERE'RE CLOUDS IN MY HEAD
AND THE BRACELET?
I STILL CAN'T DO IT..
THORGAL WILL MANAGE IT, JOLAN HE HAS TO MANAGE IT!
SLEEP NOW
NOTHING NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, IS IT?
NO, WE'RE SAFE HERE
AT LEAST I HOPE THORGAL, MY LOVE, COME QUICK, I BEG YOU

N... NOTHING HAPPENED?
ALINOE WAS MAYBE JUST TRYING TO GET US OFF THE ISLAND...
OR HE'S DISAPPEARED HOW DO YOU FEEL, MY DEAR?
I'M COLD, AND I'M DYING OF HUNGER
ME, TOO. DON'T MOVE FROM HERE, SOLAN. I'LL TRY TO FIND THE GOAT AND BRING US SOME MILK.
NO, AARICIA, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
55


AH, THERE SHE IS...
OH, NO! HER TOO?!


BUT SHE'S GOING TO..!
AAAH!
IF... IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SCARING ME, YOU'RE... YOU'RE WRONG...
VANISH, CURSED DEMON!!
WHAT HAVE I DONE!? AND WHAT IF IT WAS REALLY JUST A KID? UNLESS...
?!?

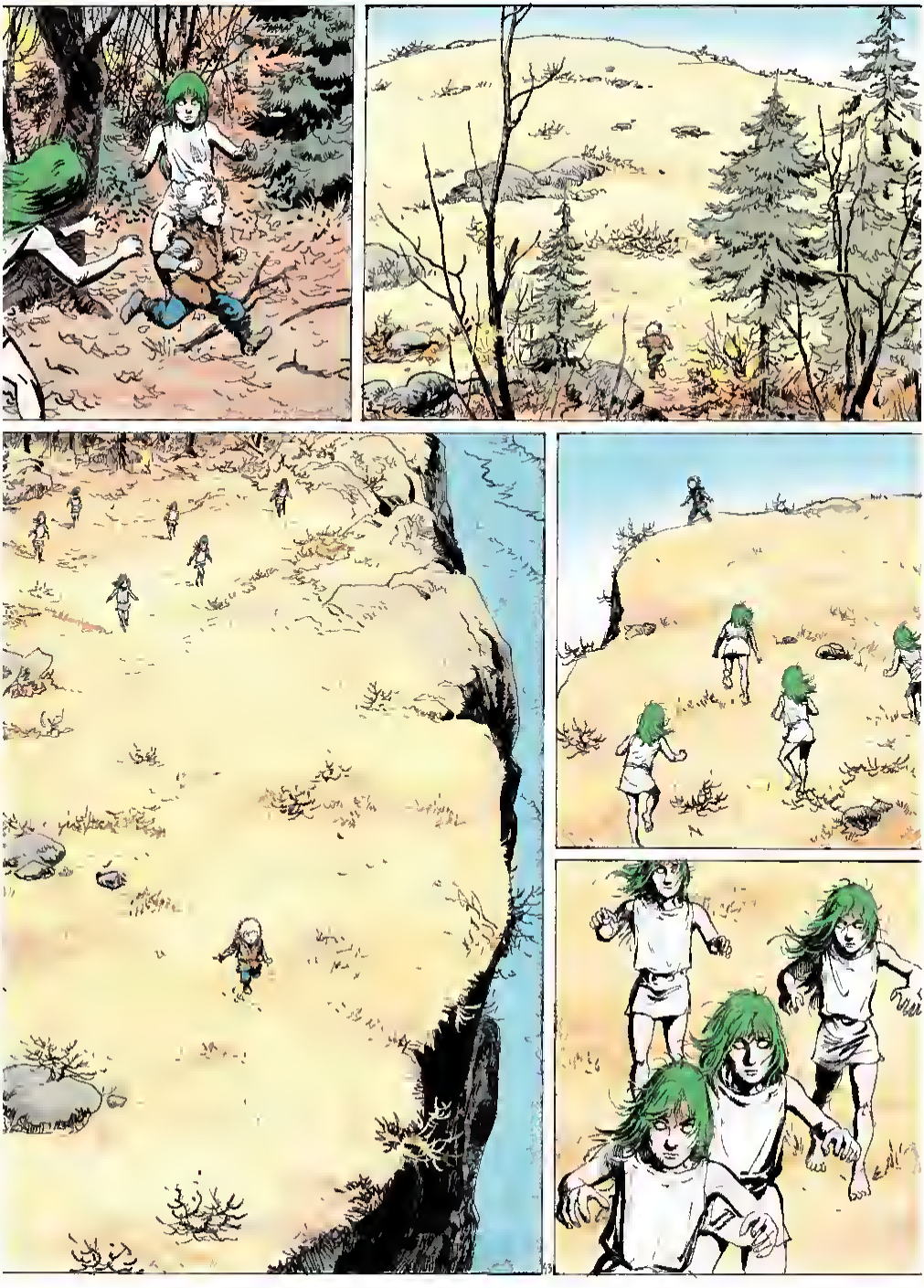

GET OUT OF HERE! LEAVE THIS ISLAND, ALINOE! LEAVE US IN PEACE!
NO.
NO! NO!
THORGAL, HELP! HELP!
WHAT COULD SHE BE DOING?!

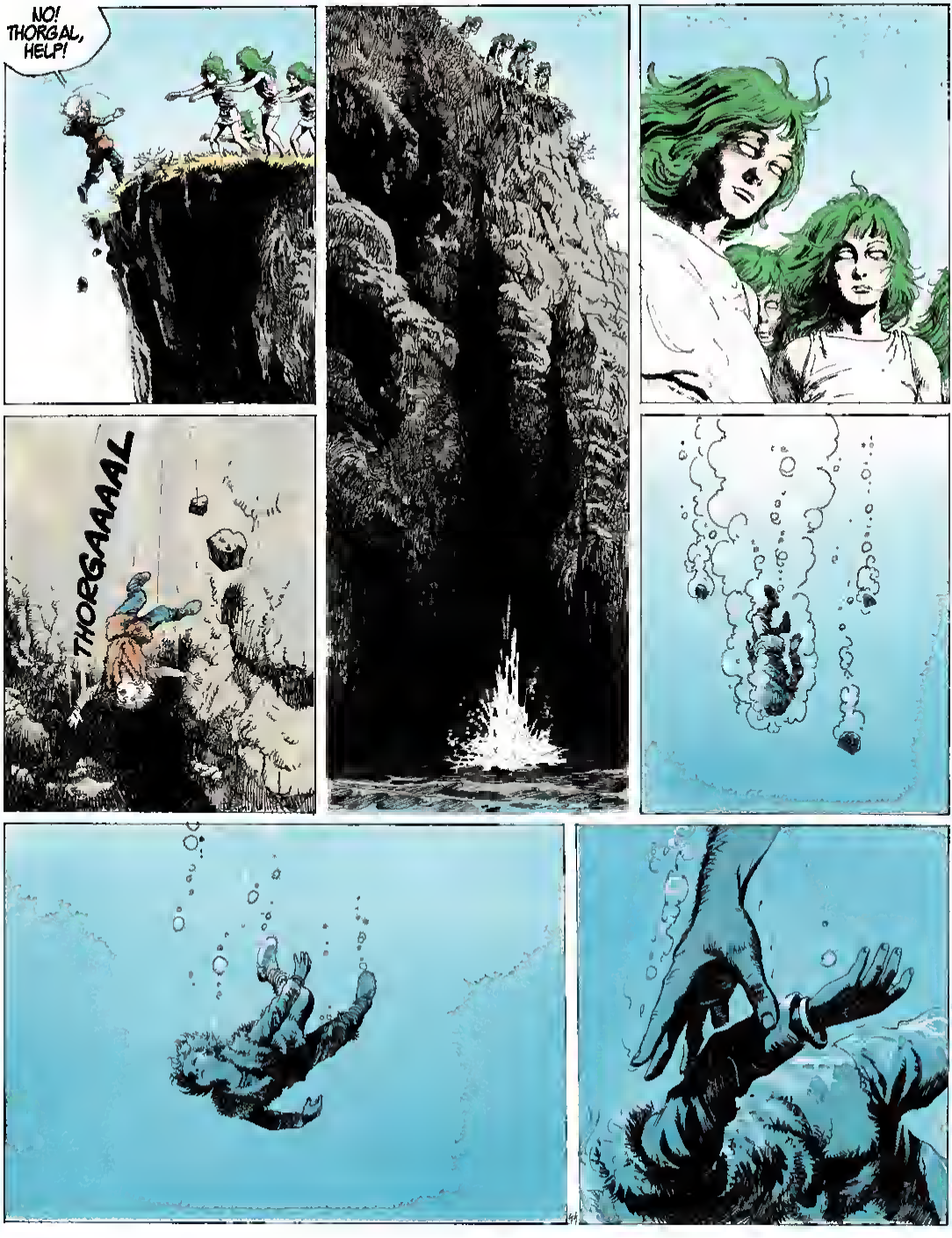

OH, THERE SHE IS...
WHAT!?
AARICIA!... WAIT, I'M COMING!
AARICIA! AARICIA!
?!?

AARICIA! IT'S ME! IT'S JOLAN.
.. YOUR LITTLE BOY
NO!
NO! NO!
AAAH

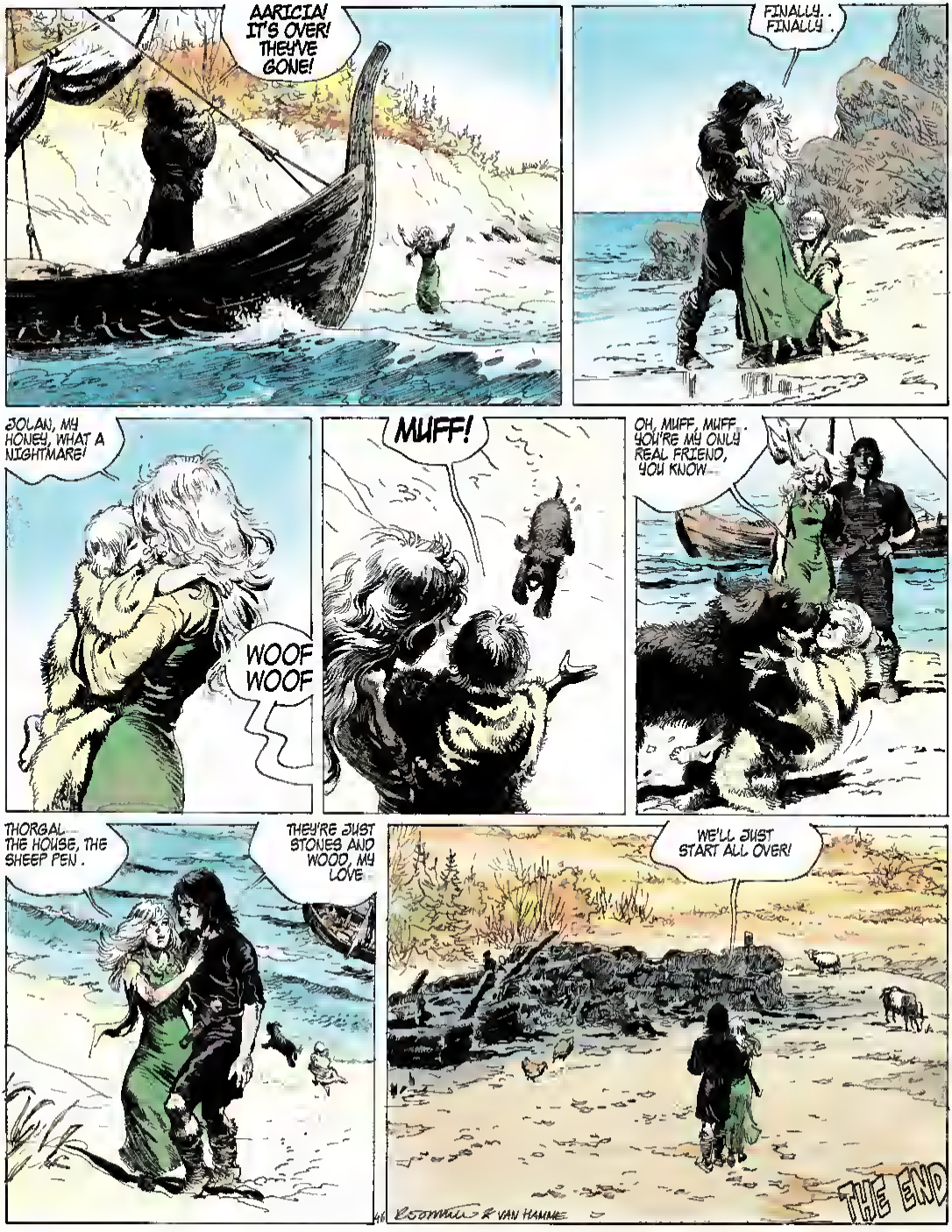
ALINOE, I BEG YOU!...

FFFFFKKKR
RRRRRAAMM
?!




NO! THORGAL, HELP!
THORGAAAAL

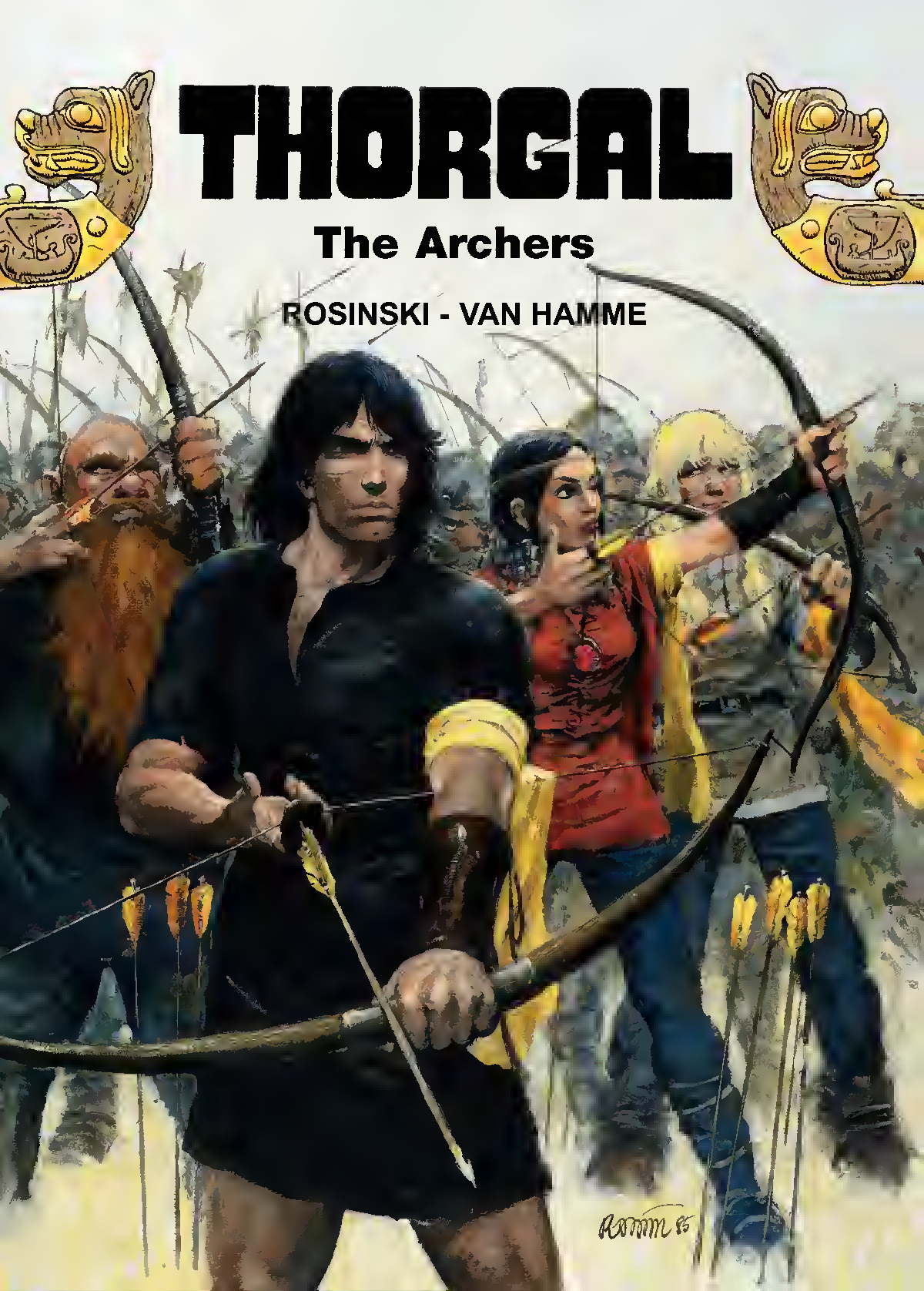
THORGAL...
OH, THORGAL, YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!... IF YOU KNEW WHAT HAS HAPPENED!
I KNOW, JOLAN, I HEARD YOUR FEAR CALLING ME


AARICIA! IT'S OVER! THEY'VE GONE!
FINALLY.. FINALLY.
JOLAN, MY HONEY, WHAT A NIGHTMARE!
WOOF WOOF
MUFF!
OH, MUFF, MUFF.. YOU'RE MY ONLY REAL FRIEND, YOU KNOW...
THORGAL... THE HOUSE, THE SHEEP PEN.
THEY'RE JUST STONES AND WOOD, MY LOVE.
WE'LL JUST START ALL OVER!
THE END
VAN HAMME

THORGAL

The Archers

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME



ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME

THORGAL

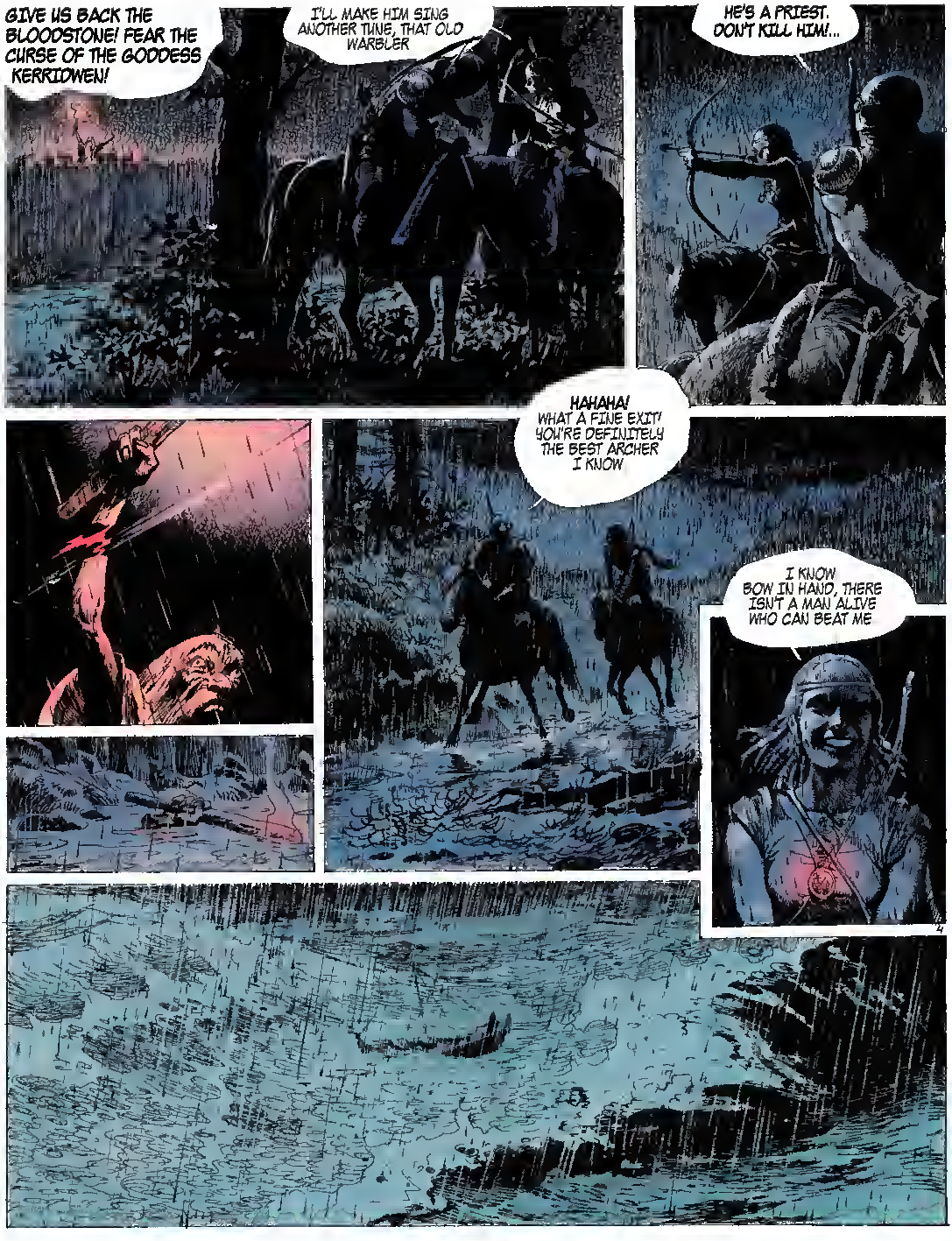
The Archers

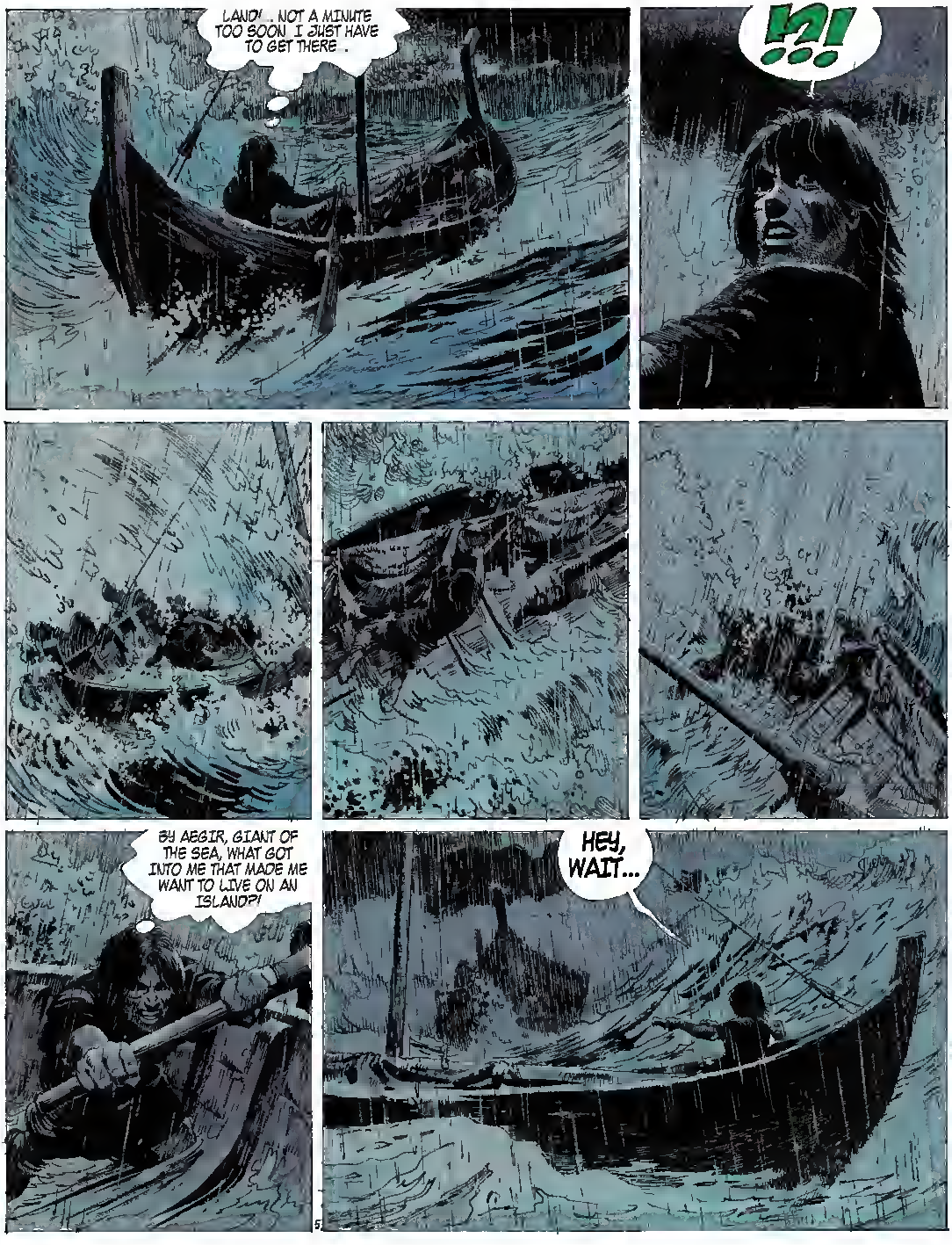
9th CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher

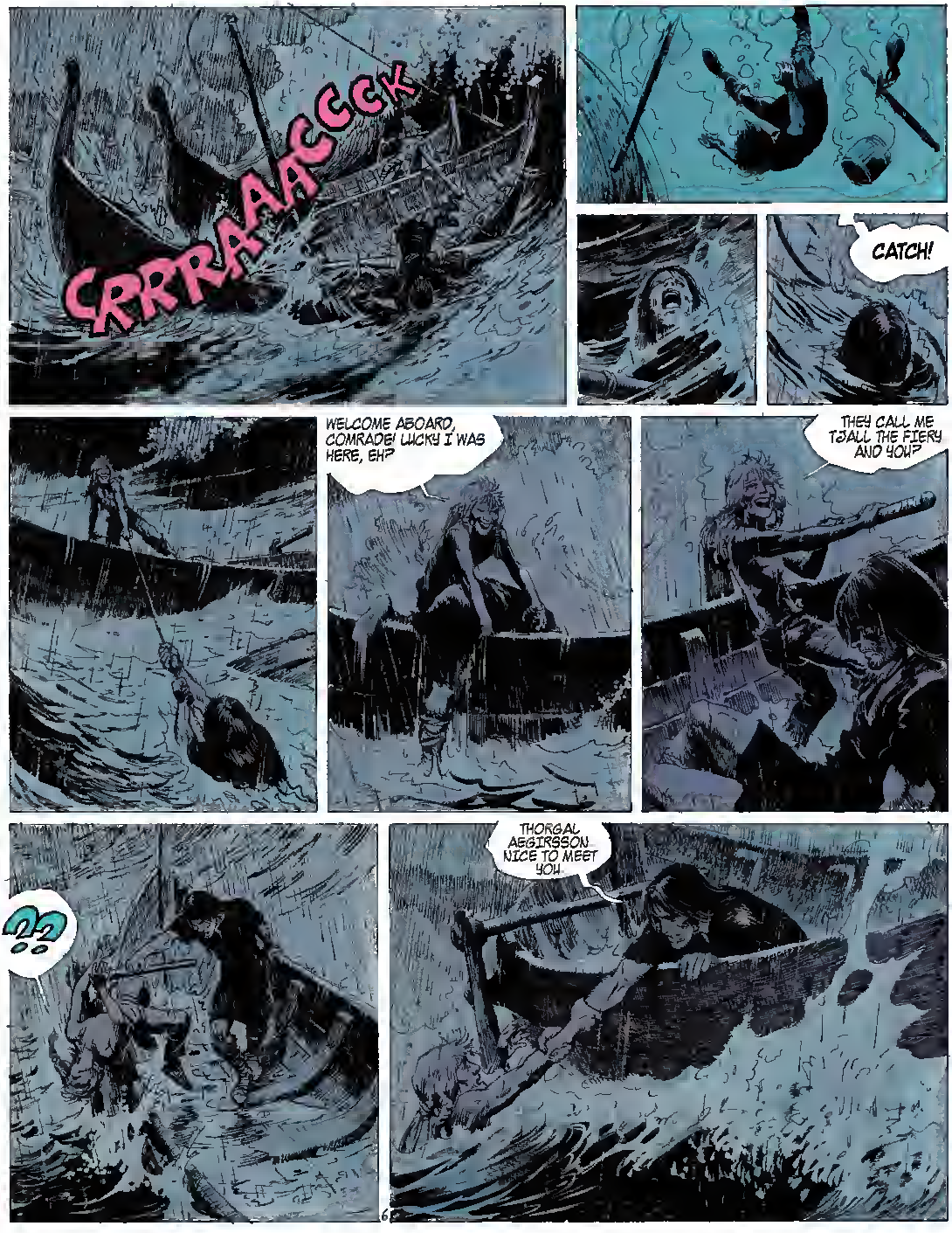
PSSST...

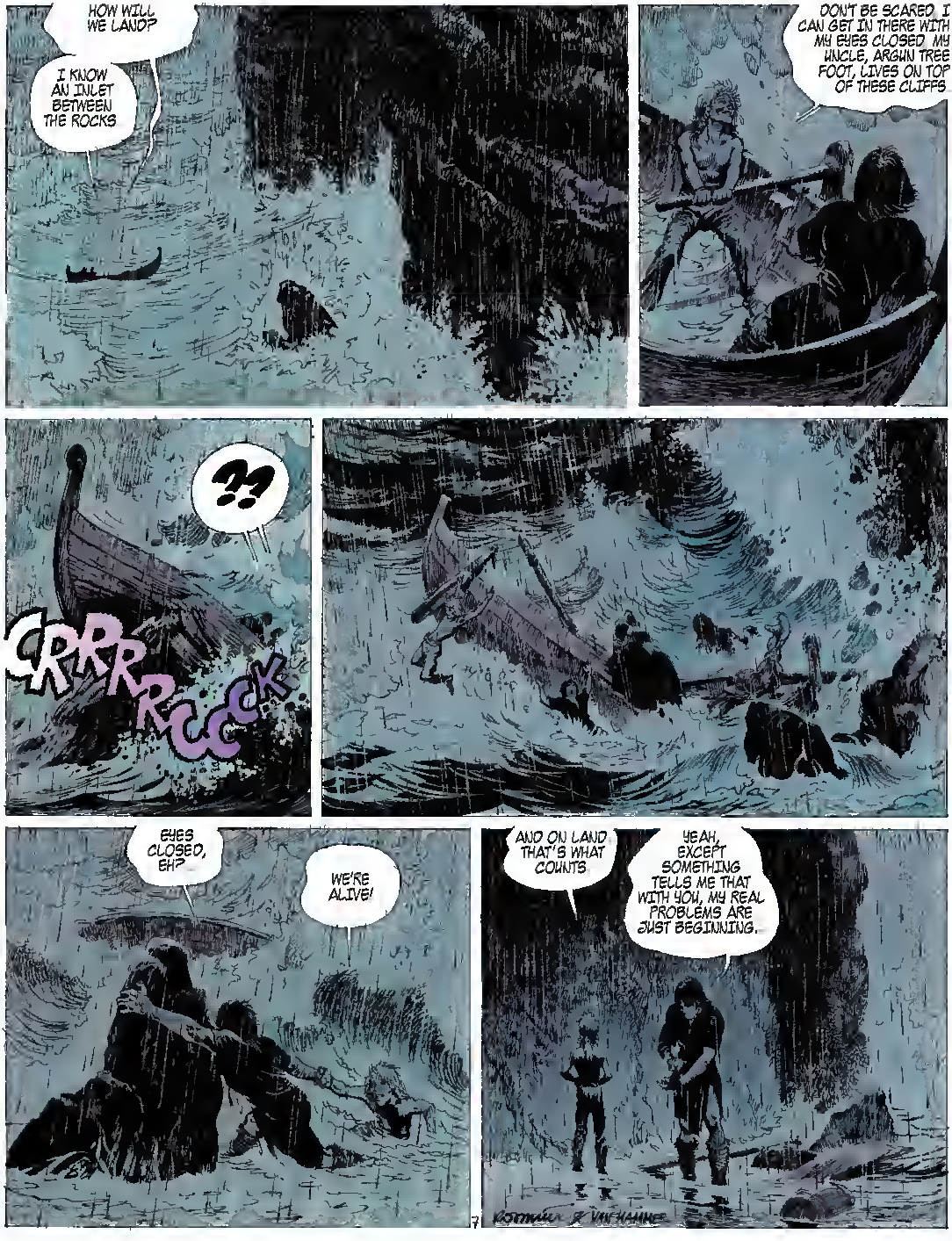
DID YOU GET IT?
A FORTUNE! QUICK, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
ALERT! SOME FOREIGNERS ARE...
?!?

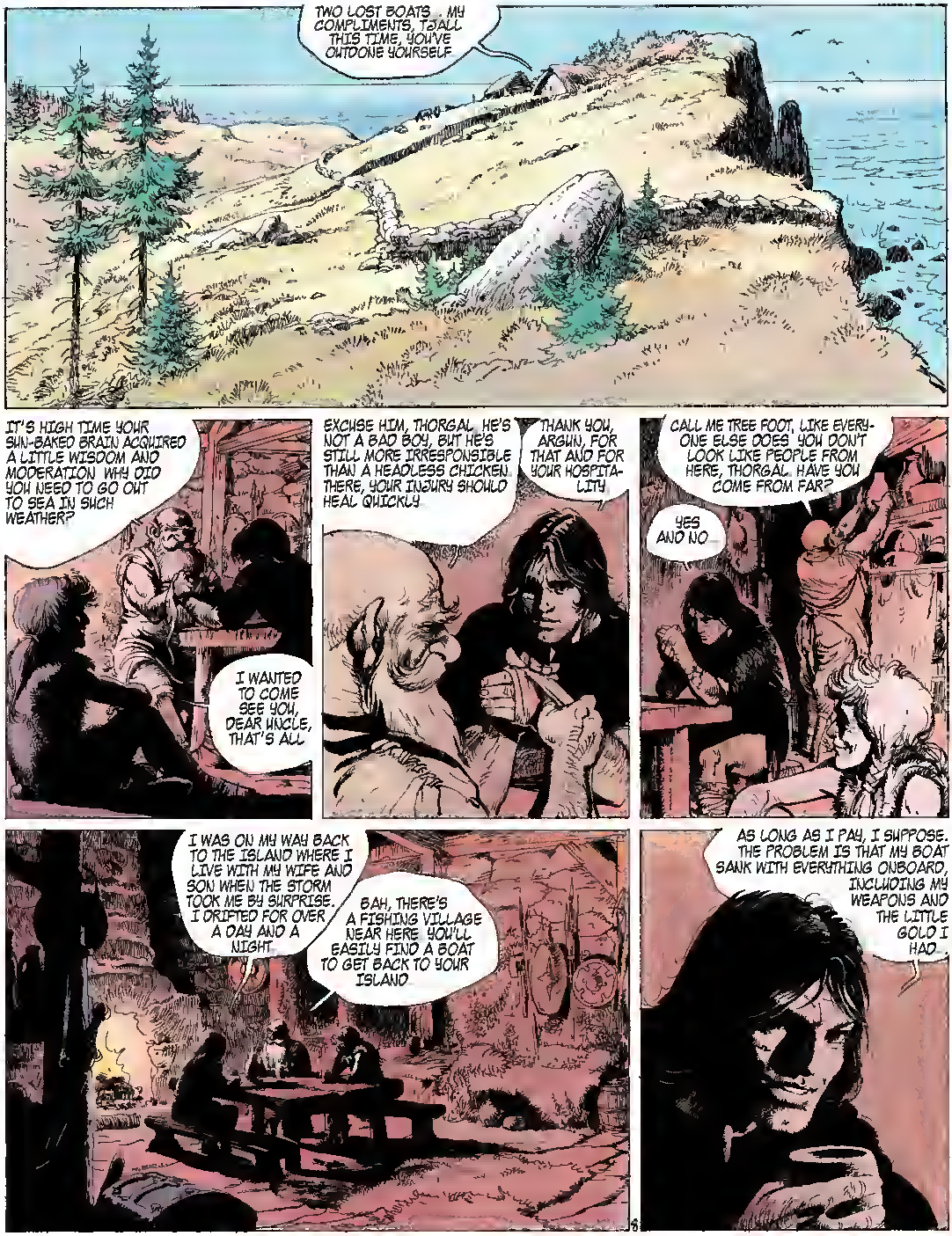
ALERT!
FOREIGNERS HAVE PENETRATED THE SACRED TOWER OF KERRIDWEN!
THEY'VE STOLEN THE BLOOD-STONE!
KILL THEM!
KILL THEM!
HURRY UP I'VE ONLY GOT FOUR ARROWS LEFT!
STOP, SACRILEGIOUS!


GIVE US BACK THE BLOODSTONE! FEAR THE CURSE OF THE GODDESS KERRIDWEN!
I'LL MAKE HIM SING ANOTHER TUNE, THAT OLD WARBLER
HE'S A PRIEST. DON'T KILL HIM!...
HAHAHA! WHAT A FINE EXIT! YOU'RE DEFINITELY THE BEST ARCHER I KNOW
I KNOW BOW IN HAND, THERE ISN'T A MAN ALIVE WHO CAN BEAT ME


LAND! .. NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON. I JUST HAVE TO GET THERE .
!?!
BY AEGIR, GIANT OF THE SEA, WHAT GOT INTO ME THAT MADE ME WANT TO LIVE ON AN ISLAND?!
HEY, WAIT...


CRRRAAACCCK
CATCH!
WELCOME ABOARD, COMRADE! LUCKY I WAS HERE, EH?
THEY CALL ME TJALL THE FIERY AND YOU?
?!?
THORGAL AEGIRSSON. NICE TO MEET YOU.

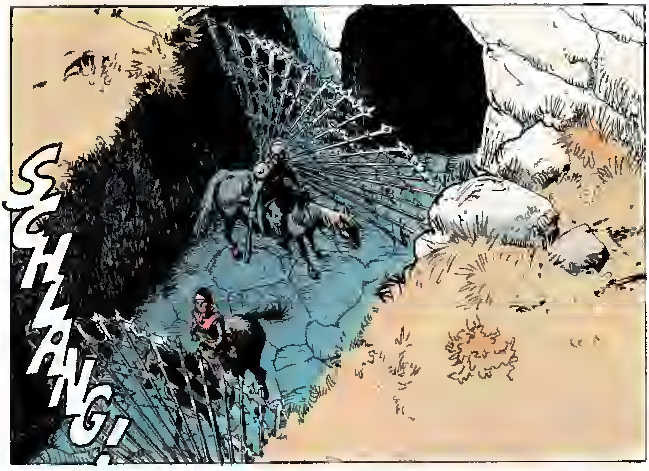

HOW WILL WE LAND?
I KNOW AN INLET BETWEEN THE ROCKS
DON'T BE SCARED. I CAN GET IN THERE WITH MY EYES CLOSED. MY UNCLE, ARGWN TREE FOOT, LIVES ON TOP OF THESE CLIFFS.
?!
CRRRRRCCCK
EYES CLOSED, EH?
WE'RE ALIVE!
AND ON LAND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS
YEAH, EXCEPT SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT WITH YOU, MY REAL PROBLEMS ARE JUST BEGINNING.


TWO LOST BOATS... MY COMPLIMENTS, TJALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE OUTDONE YOURSELF
IT'S HIGH TIME YOUR SUN-BAKED BRAIN ACQUIRED A LITTLE WISDOM AND MODERATION. WHY DID YOU NEED TO GO OUT TO SEA IN SUCH WEATHER?
I WANTED TO COME SEE YOU, DEAR UNCLE, THAT'S ALL
EXCUSE HIM, THORGAL. HE'S NOT A BAD BOY, BUT HE'S STILL MORE IRRESPONSIBLE THAN A HEADLESS CHICKEN. THERE, YOUR INJURY SHOULD HEAL QUICKLY
THANK YOU, ARGNA, FOR THAT AND FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY
CALL ME TREE FOOT, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DOES. YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE PEOPLE FROM HERE, THORGAL. HAVE YOU COME FROM FAR?
YES AND NO
I WAS ON MY WAY BACK TO THE ISLAND WHERE I LIVE WITH MY WIFE AND SON WHEN THE STORM TOOK ME BY SURPRISE. I DRIFTED FOR OVER A DAY AND A NIGHT
BAH, THERE'S A FISHING VILLAGE NEAR HERE. YOU'LL EASILY FIND A BOAT TO GET BACK TO YOUR ISLAND
AS LONG AS I PAY, I SUPPOSE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT MY BOAT SANK WITH EVERYTHING ONBOARD, INCLUDING MY WEAPONS AND THE LITTLE GOLD I HAD

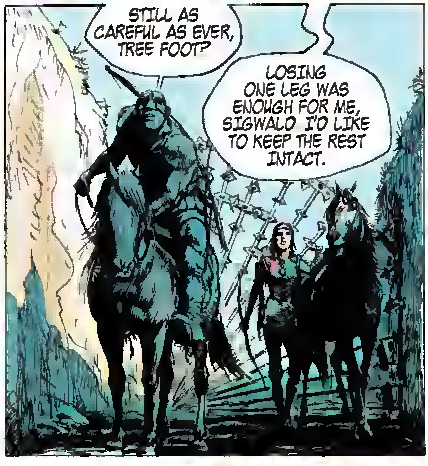
I CAN FIND YOU OTHER WEAPONS. BUT FOR THE REST... UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE NOT RICH.
NO, BUT WE SOON WILL BE.
OH YES? HOW SO?
NEXT WEEK, TREE FOOT AND I WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN ARCHERY TOURNAMENT ORGANISED BY THE RICHEST LORD IN THE REGION, THE SIRE OF UMBRIA, THIRTY LEAGUES FROM HERE. IT LOOKS LIKE THE WINNING TEAM WILL GET A PRIZE OF A HUNDRED SILVER MARKS—ENOUGH TO OFFER YOU TEN BOATS, THORGAL.
MY SCATTERBRAIN OF A NEPHEW PERSUADED ME TO BE HIS PARTNER IN THE TOURNAMENT, IT'S TRUE. I'LL ADMIT THAT HE'S NOT SO BAD WITH A BOW, BUT HE FORGETS THAT THERE WILL BE BETTER ARCHERS IN THE COUNTRY
YOU'VE TOLD ME AT LEAST SO TIMES THAT IN YOUR YOUTH YOU WON ALL THE ARCHERY COMPETITIONS.
INDEED, TJALL, THAT WAS IN MY YOUTH. WELL... IF WE CAN'T POCKET THE HUNDRED SILVER MARKS, I COULD ALWAYS SELL MY MERCHANDISE TO OUR COMPETITION
WHAT MERCHANDISE?
TJALL DIDN'T TELL YOU WHAT MY JOB WAS? FOLLOW ME. I'LL SHOW YOU.
NOBODY KNOWS WHICH VANISHED RACE CARVED OUT THESE CAVES, CENTURIES AGO. BUT IT'S BECAUSE OF THEM THAT I MOVED HERE.
HERE WE ARE.

YOU'RE AN ARMOURER?
EXACTLY. SPECIALISED IN BOW AND ARROW MANUFACTURE. I MAKE THEM FOR ALL TASTES AND ALL USES.
CLASSIC ARROWS FOR HUNTING OR WAR SIMPLE TIPS FOR TARGET SHOOTING, BAY LEAF TO PIERCE ARMOUR BALLS TO KNOCK OUT WITHOUT KILLING. OR, WITH WHISTLING HEADS TO SPREAD TERROR INTO THE HEART OF THE ENEMY
CRESCENT SHAPES TO CUT LIMBS. BARBED ARROWS OR SNAKE TIPS TO CAUSE WOUNDS THAT WON'T HEAL. YOU SEE THAT IN THE ART OF CAUSING INJURY TO HIS FELLOW, MAN'S IMAGINATION KNOWS NO LIMITS.
AND THIS?
CURVE BOW LIKE THEY USE IN THE ORIENT. SMALLER, SO LESS CUMBERSOME THAN A CLASSIC BOW, BUT REQUIRING A LARGER DRAW FORCE.
KNOW A BIT. CAN YOU SHOOT A BOW?
A LITTLE I'D LIKE TO TRY THIS ONE, BUT I HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY HAND TO HEAL.
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US TO UMBRIA? WITH THIS TOURNAMENT, I WON'T BE SHORT OF CLIENTS AND I'LL NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET
I WAS GOING TO OFFER, TREE FOOT.
SPEAKING OF CLIENTS, THERE ARE TWO COMING, AND THEY DON'T EXACTLY LOOK LIKE SIMPLE RABBIT HUNTERS.

HMMM... OLD ACQUAINTANCES.
KRISS OF VALNOR AND SIGWALD THE BURNT... A FAMOUS PAIR OF GODLESS, LAWLESS RUFFIANS!
THEY'D GO AS FAR AS DEATH ITSELF FOR MONEY.
BUT THE SECOND ONE... IT'S JUST A KID!...
DON'T BE SO SURE. SHE'S THE MORE DEADLY OF THE TWO. SHE'S ONLY TWENTY, BUT SHE FEARS NEITHER MAN NOR DEMON. AND THEY SAY THAT WITH HER BOW SHE CAN CUT THE BEAK OFF A FLYING PARTRIDGE AT FIFTY PACES.
YOUR LAIR IS ISOLATED, TREE FOOT. YOU NEVER HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS KIND OF CLIENT?
BANDITS NEED MY ARROWS AS MUCH AS WARRIORS, THORGAL.
BUT I TAKE A FEW PRECAUTIONS ANYWAY.
SCHLANGGG


SCHWANG!

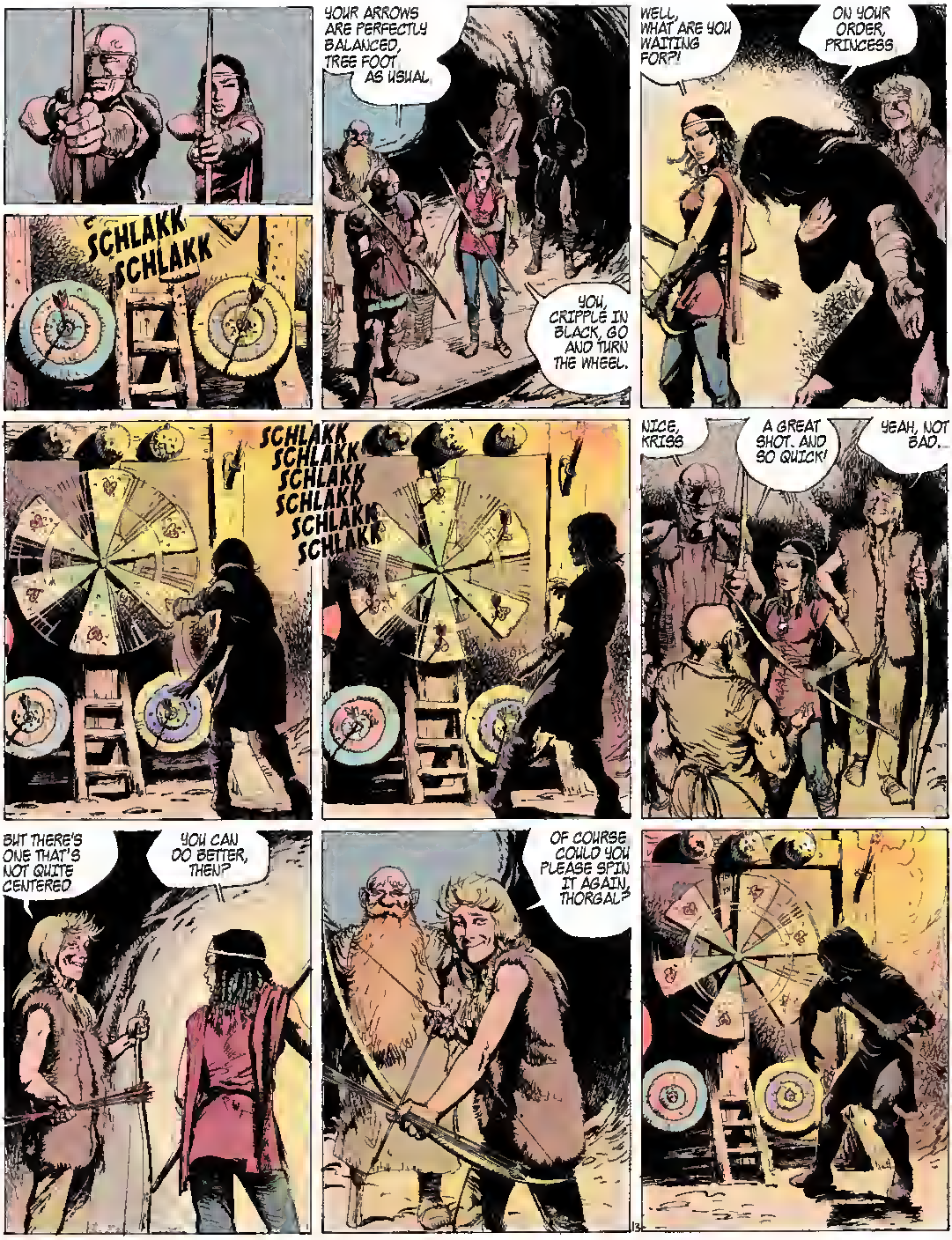
PUT YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND AND YOUR WEAPONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GRILL BEHIND YOU. YOU'LL PICK THEM UP WHEN YOU LEAVE

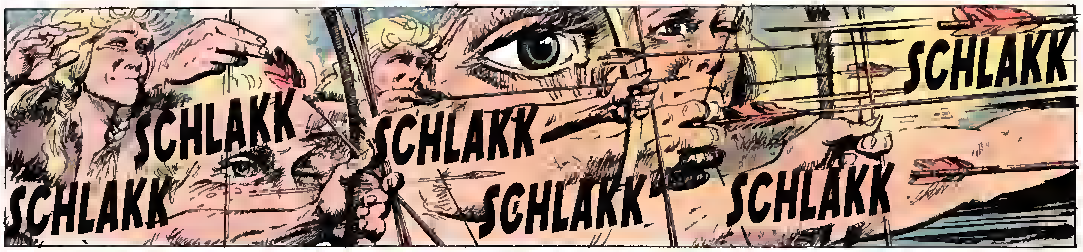

STILL AS CAREFUL AS EVER, TREE FOOT?
LOSING ONE LEG WAS ENOUGH FOR ME, SIGWALD. I'D LIKE TO KEEP THE REST INTACT.

I SUPPOSE THAT YOU'VE COME TO TAKE PART IN THE UMBRIA TOURNAMENT?
WE HAVE COME TO WIN THE TOURNAMENT, KID.
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. WHERE CAN WE TRY THESE ARROWS?

HERE YOU'LL BE OUT OF THE WIND. THE DISTANCE IS FORTY PACES.

SAY, THAT GIRL IS SUPERB!
A WILD CAT'S BEAUTY, TOALL MIND HER CLAWS


SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
YOUR ARROWS ARE PERFECTLY BALANCED, TREE FOOT, AS USUAL
YOU, CRIPPLE IN BLACK, GO AND TURN THE WHEEL.
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
ON YOUR ORDER, PRINCESS
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
NICE, KRISS
A GREAT SHOT. AND SO QUICK!
YEAH, NOT BAD.
BUT THERE'S ONE THAT'S NOT QUITE CENTERED
YOU CAN DO BETTER, THEN?
OF COURSE COULD YOU PLEASE SPIN IT AGAIN, THORGAL?


SCHLAKK
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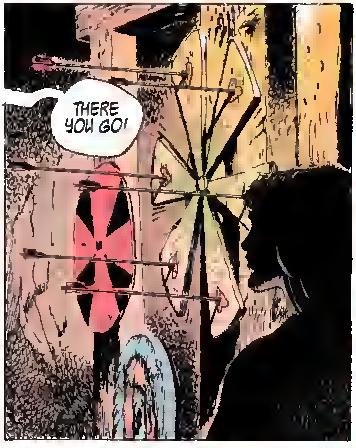
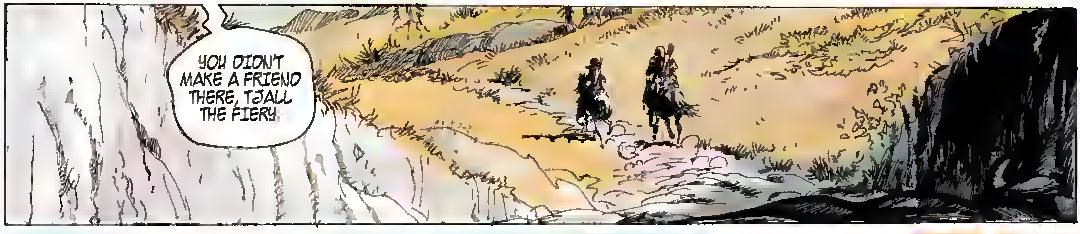
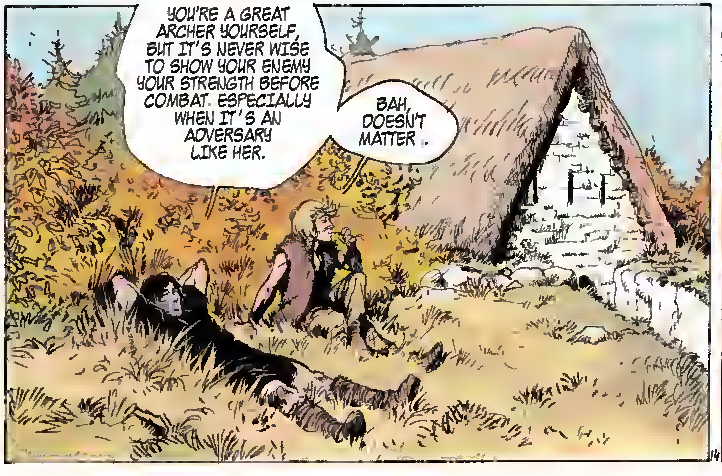
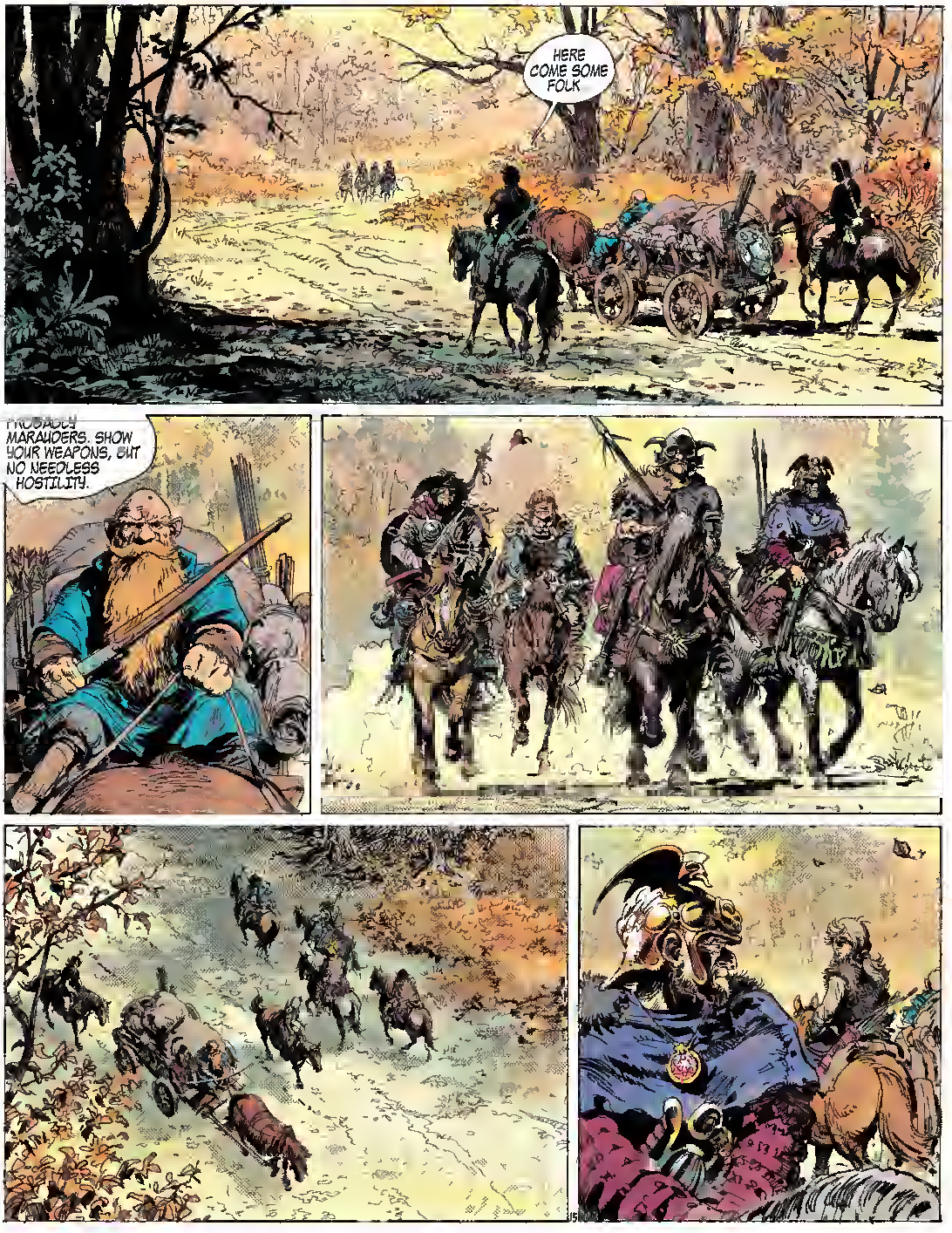

THERE YOU GO!

PAY TREE FOOT FOR THE ARROWS AND LET'S GO, SIGWALD!

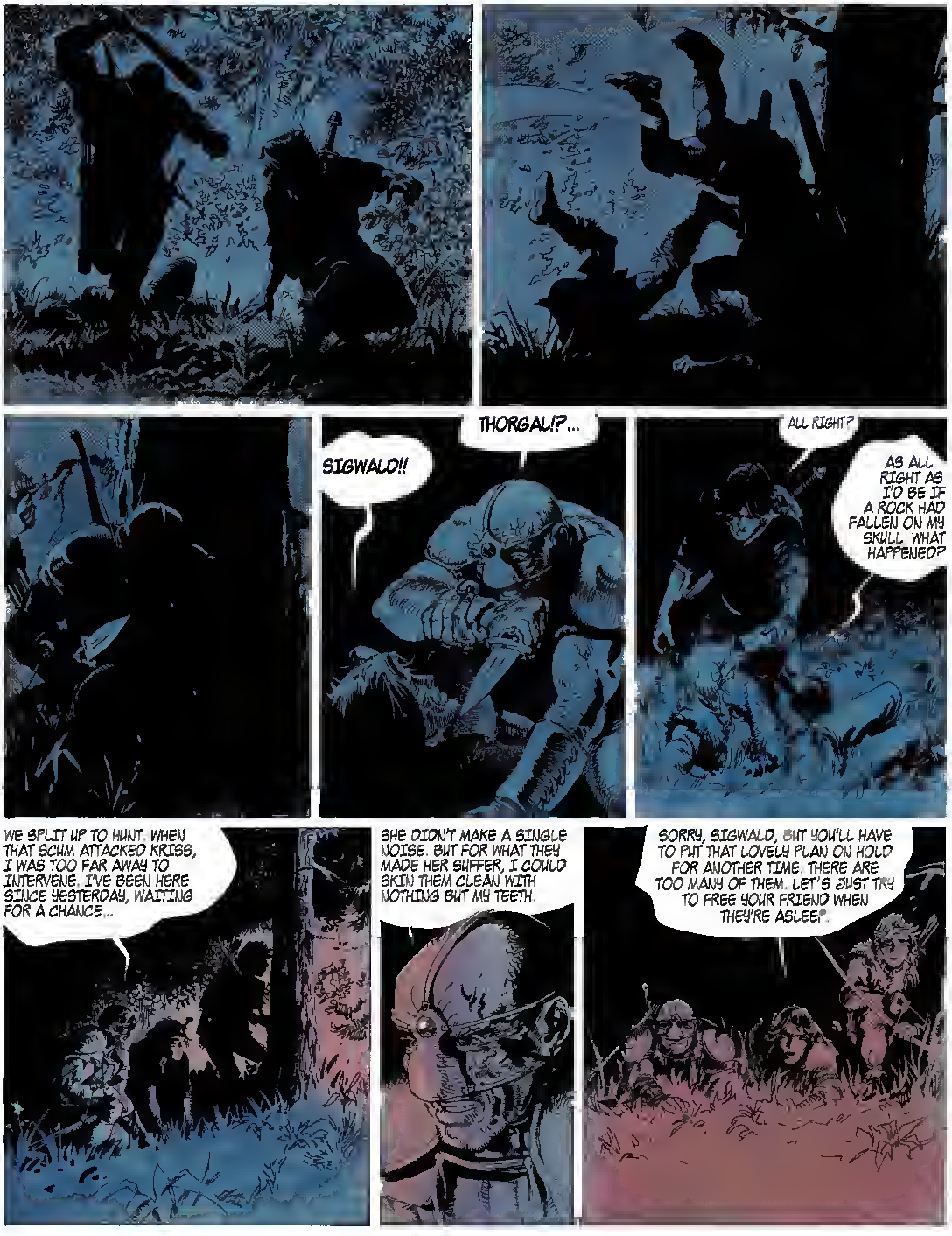

YOU DIDN'T MAKE A FRIEND THERE, TJALL THE FIERY.


YOU'RE A GREAT ARCHER YOURSELF, BUT IT'S NEVER WISE TO SHOW YOUR ENEMY YOUR STRENGTH BEFORE COMBAT. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S AN ADVERSARY LIKE HER.
BAH, DOESN'T MATTER.

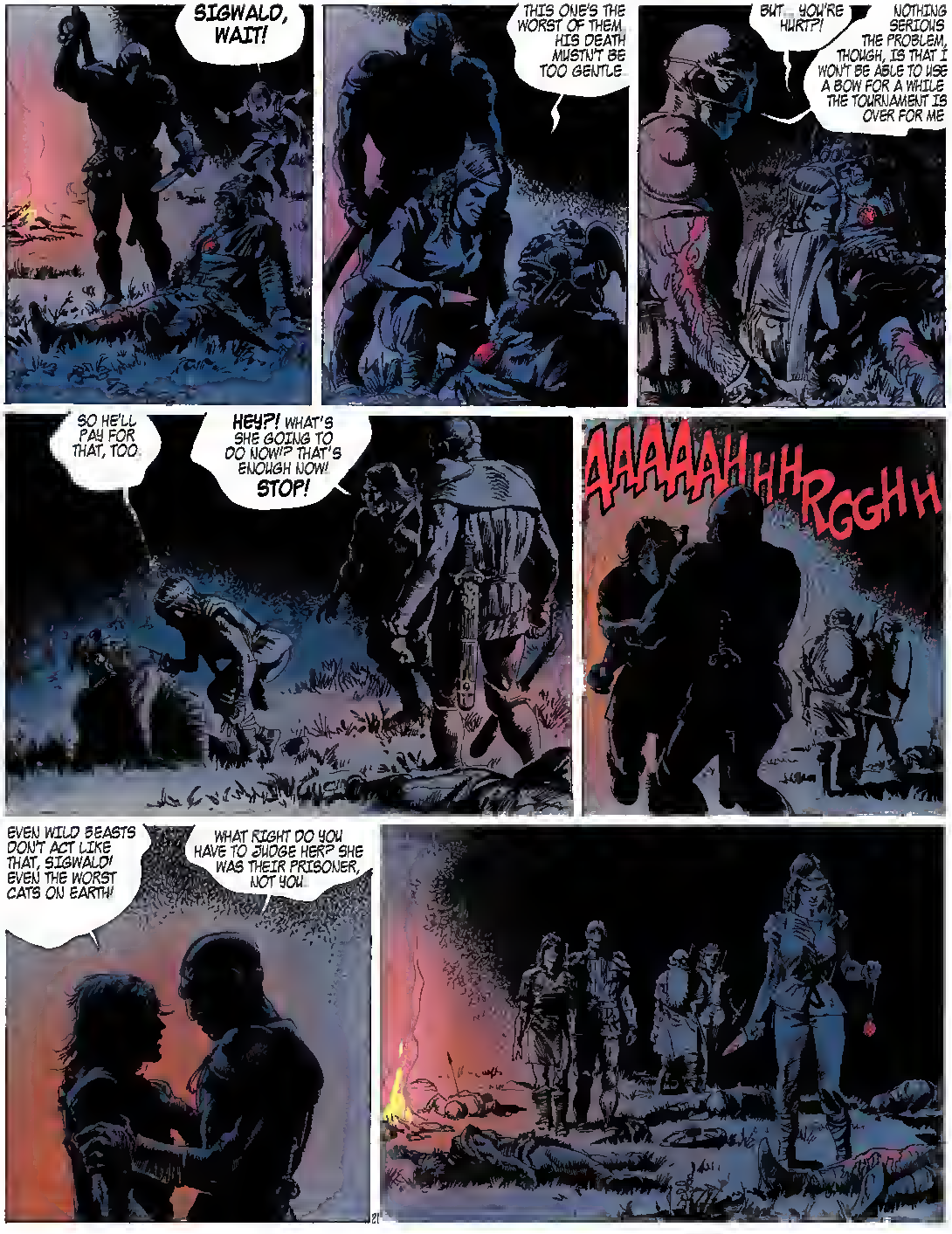
NOW I'VE GOT A DOUBLY-GOOD REASON TO BE IMPATIENT TO GO TO UMBRIA.
BOTHELL & VAN HAMME


HERE COME SOME FOLK
PROBABLY MARAUDERS. SHOW YOUR WEAPONS, BUT NO NEEDLESS HOSTILITY.

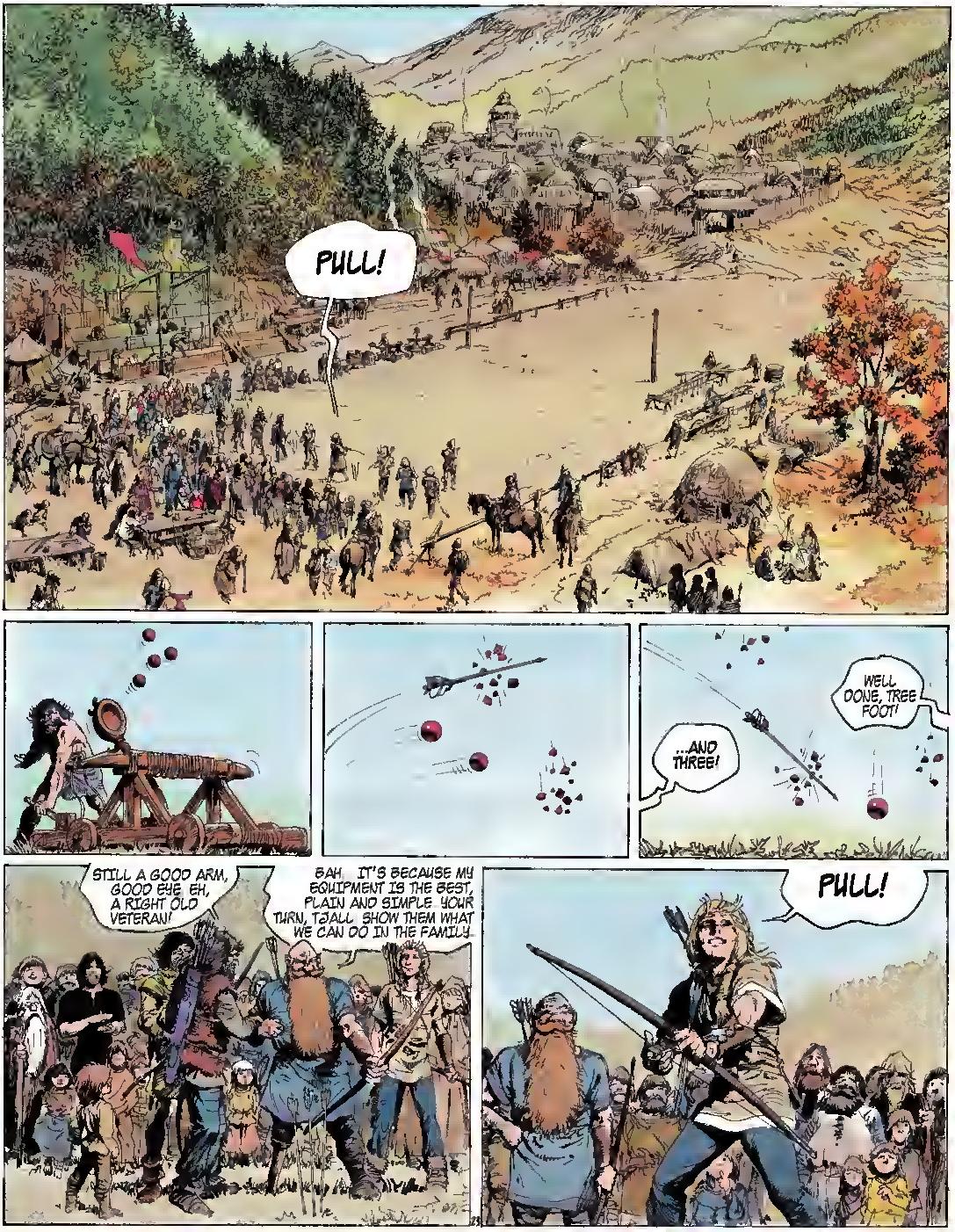
DID YOU SEE THAT?! WE HAVE TO...
STOP!
YES, I SAW
IF KRISS OF VALNOR AND SIGWALD THE BURNT LET THEMSELVES GET TRAPPED BY THOSE MEN, IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE IN A BIGGER GROUP AND ANYWAY, IT'S NOT OUR BUSINESS, TJALL. LET THE WOLVES EAT EACH OTHER
WOULD YOU BE A COWARD, THORGAL?!
YOU CAN GO ON WITHOUT ME. IF KRISS OF VALNOR IS IN THEIR HANDS, I'LL GO SAVE HER MYSELF!
THERE THEY ARE! THERE ARE AT LEAST A DOZEN OF THEM, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY PRISONERS...
MAYBE THEY TIED THEM UP ELSEWHERE?
OR KILLED THEM A LONG TIME AGO, WHICH IS MORE LIKELY. ALL YOUR OBSTINACY WILL BRING ME IS RHEUMATISM IN THE ONLY LEG I HAVE LEFT...
LET'S WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL TO GET A LITTLE CLOSER AND BE REALLY SURE
STAY HERE UNDER COVER, TREE FOOT. WE'LL GO...
YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY TO STOP TJALL FROM DOING ANYTHING STUPID, THORGAL
THOSE RAGGED FOOLS ARE PROBABLY TOO STUPID TO THINK ABOUT POSTING A DISTANT SENTRY!
SILENCE!
WHACK
HMPFF...


SIGWALD!!
THORGAL!?...
ALL RIGHT?
AS ALL RIGHT AS I'D BE IF A ROCK HAD FALLEN ON MY SKULL WHAT HAPPENED?
WE SPLIT UP TO HUNT. WHEN THAT SCUM ATTACKED KRISS, I WAS TOO FAR AWAY TO INTERVENE. I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE YESTERDAY, WAITING FOR A CHANCE...
SHE DIDN'T MAKE A SINGLE NOISE. BUT FOR WHAT THEY MADE HER SUFFER, I COULD SKIN THEM CLEAN WITH NOTHING BUT MY TEETH.
SORRY, SIGWALD, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT THAT LOVELY PLAN ON HOLD FOR ANOTHER TIME. THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. LET'S JUST TRY TO FREE YOUR FRIEND WHEN THEY'RE ASLEEP.

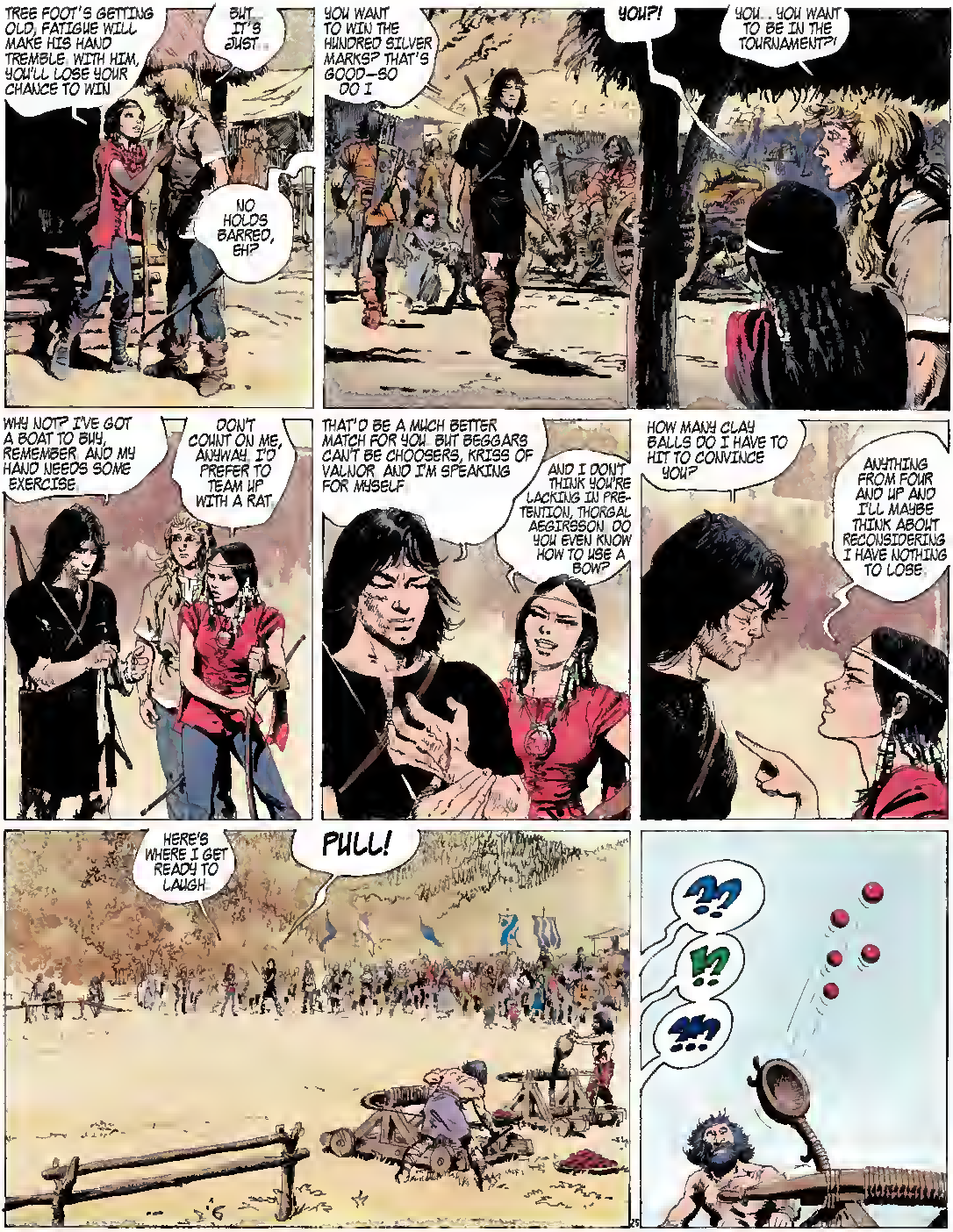
YOU OKAY?
YES BUT THESE SWINE WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS THAT EASILY. PASS ME YOUR KNIFE
HEY! HELP! I'M BEING TAKEN! HELP!
?
?
HAHA! NOW, FRIENDS, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM ALL...
LIKE THIS!


SIGWALD, WAIT!
THIS ONE'S THE WORST OF THEM. HIS DEATH MUSTN'T BE TOO GENTLE
BUT... YOU'RE HURT?!
NOTHING SERIOUS. THE PROBLEM, THOUGH, IS THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO USE A BOW FOR A WHILE. THE TOURNAMENT IS OVER FOR ME.
SO HE'LL PAY FOR THAT, TOO.
HEY?! WHAT'S SHE GOING TO DO NOW!? THAT'S ENOUGH NOW! STOP!
AAAAAAHHHRGGHH
EVEN WILD BEASTS DON'T ACT LIKE THAT, SIGWALD! EVEN THE WORST CATS ON EARTH!
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO JUDGE HER? SHE WAS THEIR PRISONER, NOT YOU.

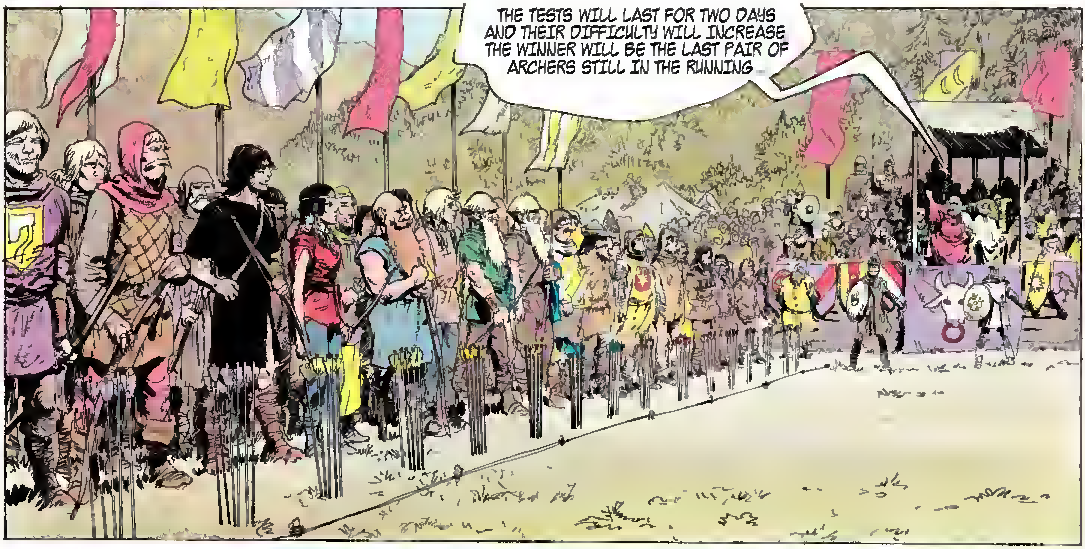
FINALLY! WHAT A STUPID IDEA TO TIRE YOURSELF OUT BURYING THOSE VERMIN!
WELL. I'LL ADMIT THAT YOU DIDN'T DO TOO BADLY THERE AND TO REWARD YOU, SIGWALD AND I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE YOU HALF OF THOSE POOR IDIOTS' HORSES.
LET'S GO ALL WE'VE DONE IS WASTED OUR TIME
I'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT, THORGAL AEGIRSSON! I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES, BUT I'LL KILL YOU!


PULL!
...AND THREE!
WELL DONE, TREE FOOT!
STILL A GOOD ARM, GOOD EYE, EH, A RIGHT OLD VETERAN!
BAH... IT'S BECAUSE MY EQUIPMENT IS THE BEST, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. YOUR TURN, TJALL. SHOW THEM WHAT WE CAN DO IN THE FAMILY!
PULL!

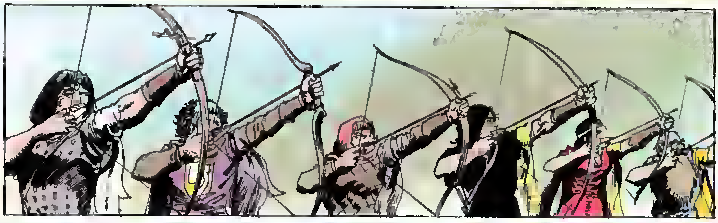
ONE...
TWO...
THREE...
FOUR!
SUPERB, TJALL!
NOW, KIND FOLK, YOU KNOW WHO YOU CAN BET ON FOR THE TOURNAMENT TOMORROW.
GO AND SIGN US UP, THEN, INSTEAD OF PARADING AROUND THORGAL AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE HORSE AND CART.
A BRAVE HEART AND A GOOD BOWMAN, BUT THE BRAIN OF A PEACOCK SAME AS I WAS AT HIS AGE.
THAT WAS A GOOD SHOT, TJALL.
KRISS OF VALNOR!... YOU... YOU'RE HERE?.
MM HMM... I'M ALSO CAPABLE OF HITTING FOUR CLAY BALLS, YOU KNOW. THOSE WHO MANAGE IT ARE QUITE RARE.
DID YOU SIGN UP FOR THE TOURNAMENT?
THEY ONLY ACCEPT ARCHERS IN PAIRS AND YOU KNOW FULL WELL THAT SIGWALD IS INJURED. SHAME...
IF WE MADE A TEAM, YOU AND I, WE'D BE THE BEST, TJALL.
?!?!


TREE FOOT'S GETTING OLD, FATIGUE WILL MAKE HIS HAND TREMBLE. WITH HIM, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.
BUT... IT'S JUST...
NO HOLDS BARRED, EH?
YOU WANT TO WIN THE HUNDRED SILVER MARKS? THAT'S GOOD—SO DO I.
YOU?!
YOU... YOU WANT TO BE IN THE TOURNAMENT?!
WHY NOT? I'VE GOT A BOAT TO BUY, REMEMBER. AND MY HAND NEEDS SOME EXERCISE.
DON'T COUNT ON ME, ANYWAY. I'D PREFER TO TEAM UP WITH A RAT.
THAT'D BE A MUCH BETTER MATCH FOR YOU. BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS, KRISS OF VALNOR. AND I'M SPEAKING FOR MYSELF.
AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LACKING IN PRETENTION, THORGAL AEGIRSSON. DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE A BOW?
HOW MANY CLAY BALLS DO I HAVE TO HIT TO CONVINCE YOU?
ANYTHING FROM FOUR AND UP AND I'LL MAYBE THINK ABOUT RECONSIDERING. I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.
HERE'S WHERE I GET READY TO LAUGH.
PULL!
?!
!?
?!?

YOUR UNCLE'S EQUIPMENT ISN'T TOO BAD, IN FACT.
ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN. BUT THAT WON'T MAKE ME FORGET THE HUMILIATION YOU PUT ME THROUGH. OUR TRUCE WILL ONLY LAST AS LONG AS THE TOURNAMENT.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
FIVE, TREE FOOT! HE HIT FIVE! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SHOOT AS FAST. AH, HE HID HIS GAME WELL WITH HIS INJURED HAND...
MM HMM... WITH KRISS OF VALNOR, THEY'LL BE TOUGH OPPOSITION.
BUT WHERE'S HE FROM, TREE FOOT? WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?
A MAN, QUITE SIMPLY. AND ONE WE'D DO WELL TO IMITATE IF WE WANT TO BE ON FORM TOMORROW. GOOD-NIGHT, TJALL.


THE TESTS WILL LAST FOR TWO DAYS AND THEIR DIFFICULTY WILL INCREASE THE WINNER WILL BE THE LAST PAIR OF ARCHERS STILL IN THE RUNNING

AND NOW LET THE TOURNAMENT BEGIN!
GOOD LUCK, THORGAL
YOU TOO, TREE FOOT!



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BY THE GODS, THAT WILD CHILD IS WORTH A DOZEN OF MY ARCHERS!
HER COMPANION ISN'T BAD EITHER
23

IS IT BEING IN THE LEAD AFTER THE FIRST DAY THAT'S TAKEN AWAY YOUR APPETITE? YOU'RE RIGHT TO BE WORRIED TREE FOOT AND I AREN'T FAR BEHIND
I'M THINKING ABOUT MY FAMILY, TJALL...
I LEFT MY ISLAND TEN DAYS AGO. AARICIA AND ZOLAN MUST THINK I'M DEAD...
YOU'LL SOON HAVE YOUR BOAT, THORGAL. WHETHER IT BE US OR YOU WHO WINS, YOU'LL HAVE IT
BUT HOW CAN A MAN LIKE YOU LET HIMSELF BE TIED TO A WOMAN AND...
CHHT! LISTEN, SOUNDS LIKE...
NO POINT KILLING THEM...
JUST BREAKING THEIR WRISTS SHOULD DO IT!

SCHLAKK
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SCHLAKK
LEAVE IT... IT'S NOT WORTH IT.
AS FOR THESE NAIVE GUYS, WALKING AROUND UNARMED AWAY FROM THE CAMP...
NOW WE'RE EVEN. IT'LL BE BETTER THIS WAY TO SETTLE OUR SCORES LATER.
THANKS ALL THE SAME...
WHAT FOR? YOU'RE MY PARTNER. I'M WATCHING OUT FOR MY INTERESTS, THAT'S ALL. NOW YOU'D DO WELL TO GO AND SLEEP.
YOU'RE WATCHING OUT FOR OUR HEALTH, TOO? THAT'S REALLY TOO KIND.
YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE IN A LESS PLAYFUL MOOD TOMORROW, THORGAL. BECAUSE TO WIN THIS TIME, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO BE A GOOD ARCHER. YOU'LL ALSO NEED COURAGE.

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SCH

TARGETS AT 60 PACES!
DON'T YOU THINK THIS LAST TEST IS A LITTLE CRUEL, MY LOVE?
WHY? EACH TEAM CAN LEAVE WHEN THEY WANT. THE WINNERS WILL BE THOSE WHO GO THE FURTHEST, THAT'S ALL.
AS LONG AS THE ARROW HITS THE TARGET, OF COURSE.
I'M NOT SURE IF I LIKE THIS LITTLE GAME.
WHY WORRY? TJALL SHOOTS AS IF HE WAS BORN WITH A BOW IN HIS HAND.
IT'S HIM THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, WHEN IT'S MY TURN TO SHOOT.
AND YOU? AREN'T YOU AFRAID THAT THAT DEAR KRISS... ERR... WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE? SHE HARDLY LIKES YOU.
SHE WANTS TO WIN TOO MUCH FOR THAT.
WELL... I HOPE.

SCHLAKK
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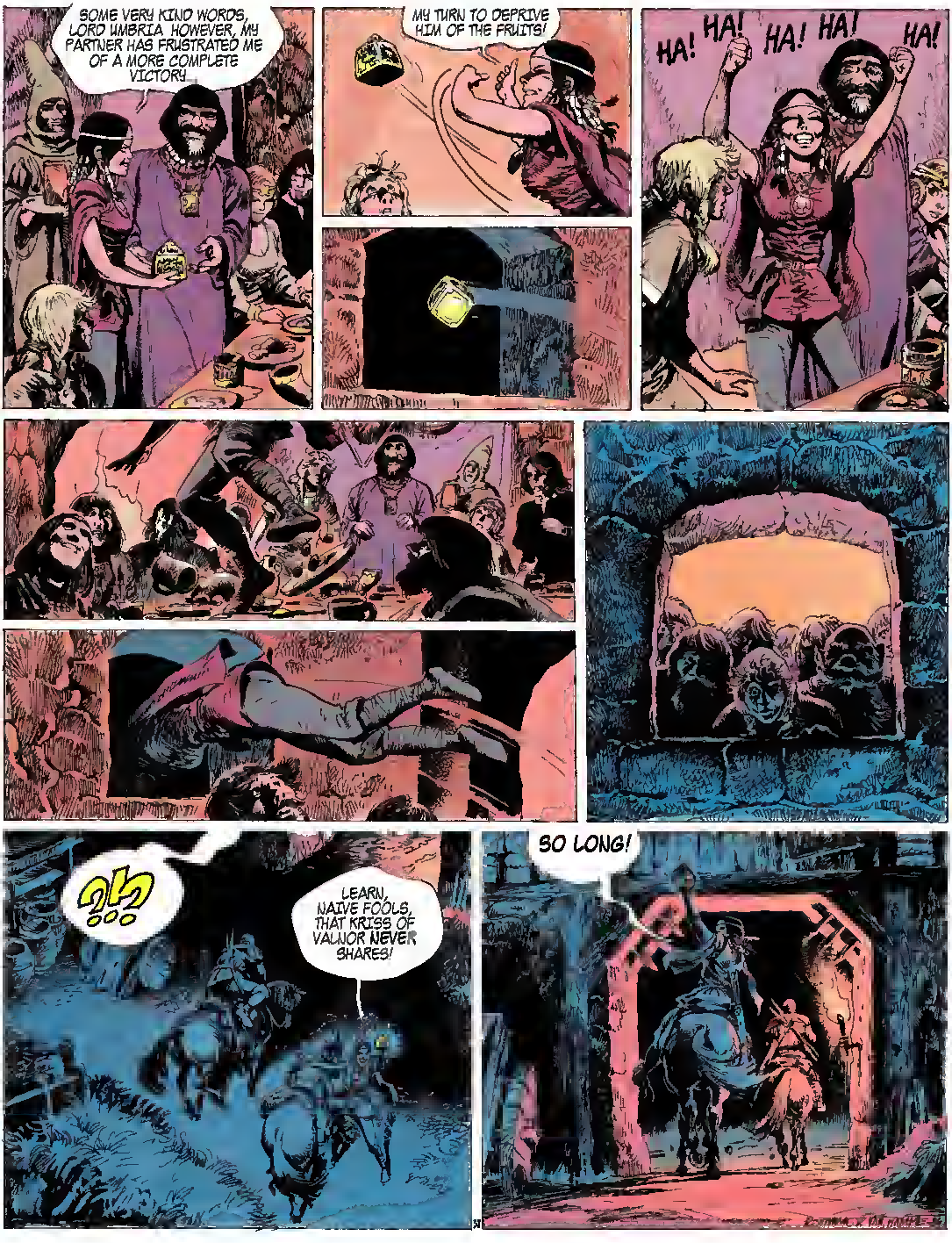
SCHLAKK
WELL, YOU SEE... THIS TIME IT WENT WELL.
NOT FOR EVERY-BODY.
DEAD?
NO, BUT JUST BARELY ALIVE
TARGETS AT 70 PACES!
BEYOND 60 PACES IT'S TOO RISKY. I QUIT.
ME, TOO. THEIR CURSED TARGET IS TOO SMALL.
LOOK, THERE'S ONLY FIVE LEFT!
YOU THINK THE GIRL WILL MAKE IT TO THE END?
DEFINITELY NOT. I'M BETTING ON THE BLUES.
I'M FOR THE ORANGES.
THIS IS WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING...

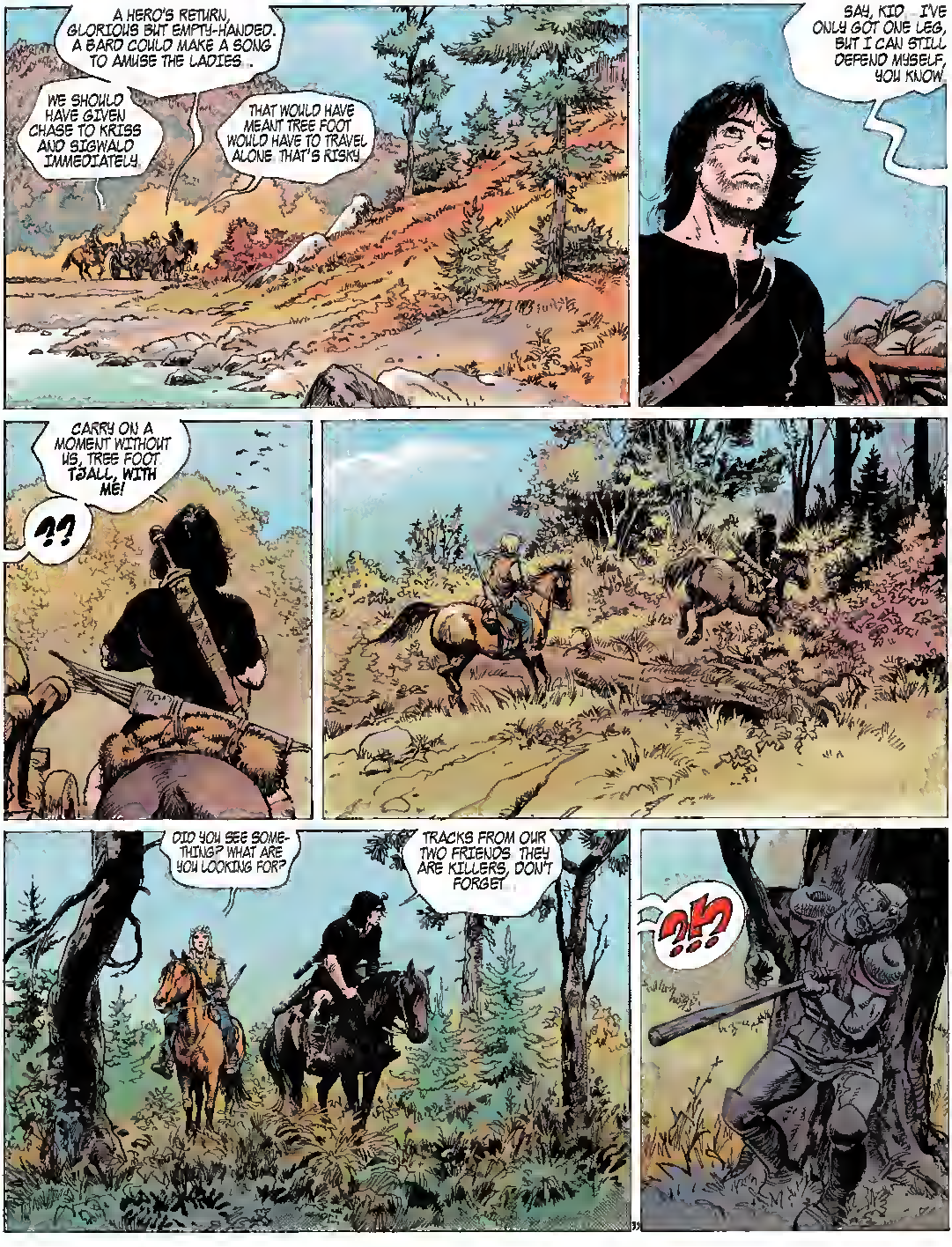
YOU SHOULD HAVE QUIT TOO, TJALL.
OH, YEAH? AND WHY?
ARE YOU SURE THAT YOUR OLD UNCLE'S EYES ARE STILL AS GOOD AS HE'D HAVE US BELIEVE? IT'D BE A SHAME TO SEE YOUR PRETTY STOMACH PIERCED BY AN ARROW.
TREE FOOT'S VISION IS EXCELLENT. DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.
IT'S. THEY'RE TERRIBLY FAR AWAY
DON'T LET YOURSELF BE DISTRACTED, AND CONCENTRATE ON THE TARGET, TREE FOOT. NOTHING BUT THE TARGET!
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
SCHLAK
SCHLAKK
SCHLAKK
I... I QUIT.

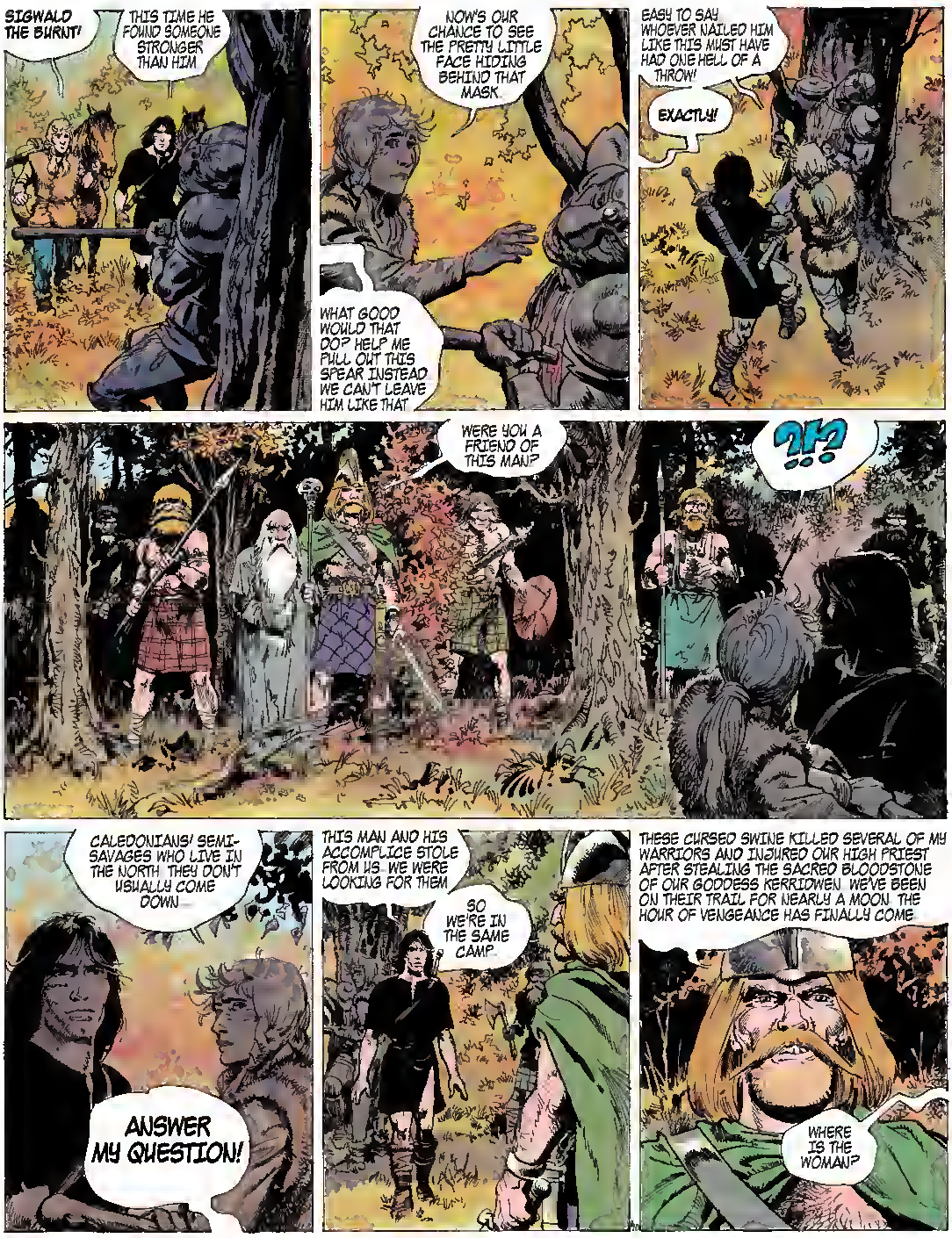
JUST THREE LEFT!
AND THE DISTANCE IS GOING UP TO 80 PACES!
WHAT TEMPTATION TO HAVE YOU LIKE THIS AT THE END OF MY ARROW, THORGAL. I WONDER IF I'LL MANAGE TO RESIST TILL THE END.
YOU TAKE POINTLESS RISKS, FAT MAN. YOU AND YOUR RUNT OF A NEPHEW, YOU HAVE NO CHANCE
AND YOU'D DO BETTER TO STOP TREMBLING IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR BROTHER TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER BELLY BUTTON.
SO WHO TAKES RISKS?
TARGETS AT 90 PACES!

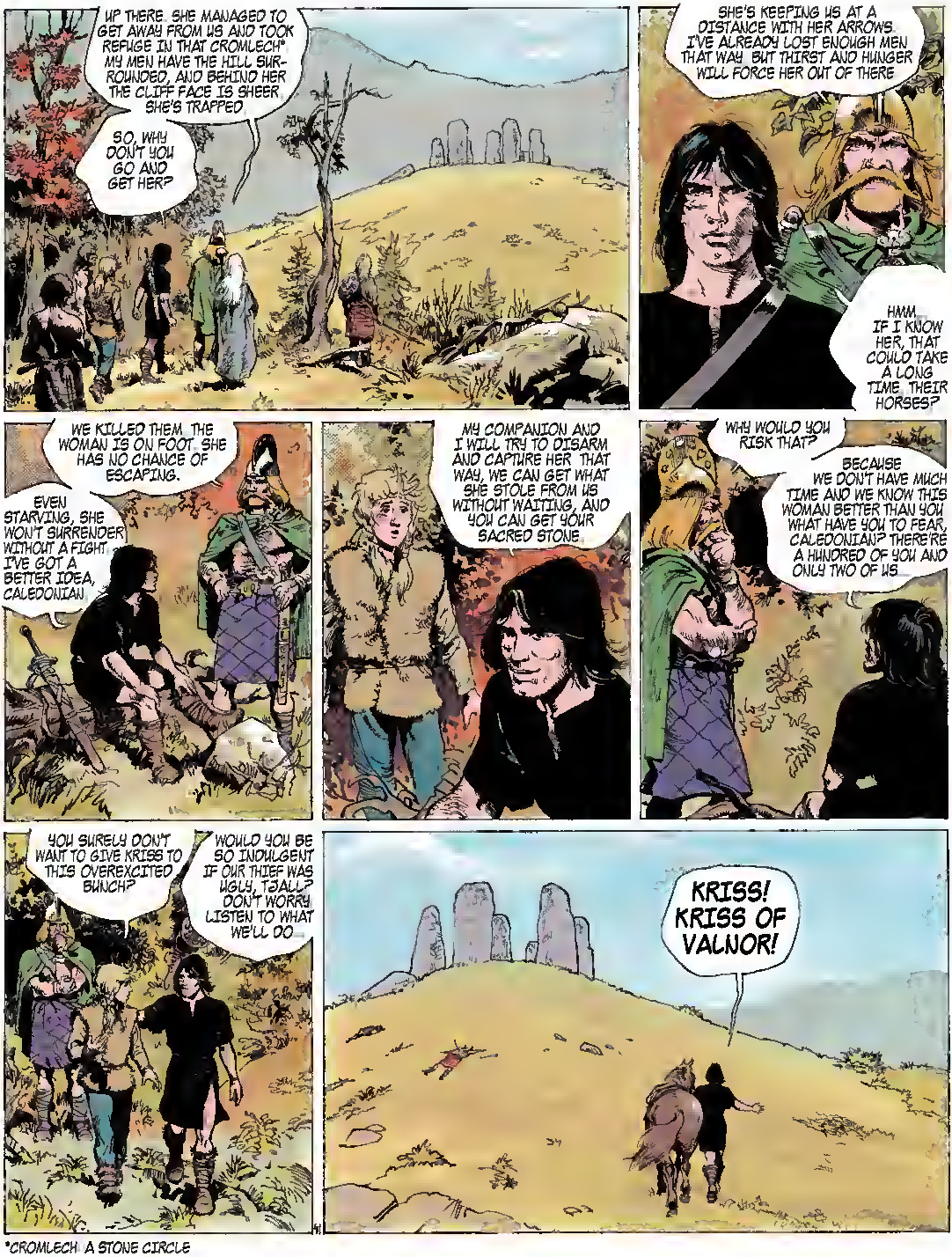
I. I DON'T DARE...
THEY'RE GIVING UP! HAHAHA! WE'VE WON, BROTHER! WE'VE...
W...
SHOOT, TREE FOOT! SHOOT, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

SCHLAKK
?
THE TOURNAMENT STOPS HERE, LORD UMBRIA. MY COMPANIONS AND I ARE NOT WILLING TO KEEP KILLING EACH OTHER FOR YOUR GOOD PLEASURE
SO BE IT. YOUR ARCHERY TALENTS ALLOW YOU TO BE GENEROUS, STRANGER. YOU WILL THUS SHARE THE WINNER'S PRIZE AMONG FOUR DURING THE BANQUET TONIGHT
I WASN'T TRYING TO HUMILIATE YOU, TREE FOOT. IT'S JUST THAT A QUARTER OF THE PRIZE IS ENOUGH FOR MY PLANS
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A WISE MAN FOR A FRIEND, THORGAL. SO, THANK YOU TWICE
AFTER BEING ENTERTAINED BY TWO DAYS OF TOURNAMENT, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO AWARD A HUNDRED SILVER MARKS TO THE PRETTIEST HANDS I EVER SAW PULL A BOW'S STRING...


SOME VERY KIND WORDS, LORD UMBRIA. HOWEVER, MY PARTNER HAS FRUSTRATED ME OF A MORE COMPLETE VICTORY.
MY TURN TO DEPRIVE HIM OF THE FRUITS!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
?!?
LEARN, NAIVE FOOLS, THAT KRISS OF VALNOR NEVER SHARES!
SO LONG!


A HERO'S RETURN, GLORIOUS BUT EMPTY-HANDED. A BARD COULD MAKE A SONG TO AMUSE THE LADIES..
WE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN CHASE TO KRISS AND SIGWALD IMMEDIATELY.
THAT WOULD HAVE MEANT TREE FOOT WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL ALONE. THAT'S RISKY.
SAY, KID... I'VE ONLY GOT ONE LEG, BUT I CAN STILL DEFEND MYSELF, YOU KNOW.
CARRY ON A MOMENT WITHOUT US, TREE FOOT TOALL, WITH ME!
??
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
TRACKS FROM OUR TWO FRIENDS. THEY ARE KILLERS, DON'T FORGET
?!?


SIGWALD THE BURNT!
THIS TIME HE FOUND SOMEONE STRONGER THAN HIM
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO SEE THE PRETTY LITTLE FACE HIDING BEHIND THAT MASK.
WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO? HELP ME PULL OUT THIS SPEAR INSTEAD WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT
EASY TO SAY WHOEVER NAILED HIM LIKE THIS MUST HAVE HAD ONE HELL OF A THROW!
EXACTLY!
WERE YOU A FRIEND OF THIS MAN?
?!?
CALEDONIANS! SEMI-SAVAGES WHO LIVE IN THE NORTH. THEY DON'T USUALLY COME DOWN...
ANSWER MY QUESTION!
THIS MAN AND HIS ACCOMPLICE STOLE FROM US. WE WERE LOOKING FOR THEM.
SO WE'RE IN THE SAME CAMP.
THESE CURSED SWINE KILLED SEVERAL OF MY WARRIORS AND INJURED OUR HIGH PRIEST AFTER STEALING THE SACRED BLOODSTONE OF OUR GODDESS KERRIDWEN. WE'VE BEEN ON THEIR TRAIL FOR NEARLY A MOON. THE HOUR OF VENGEANCE HAS FINALLY COME.
WHERE IS THE WOMAN?


UP THERE. SHE MANAGED TO GET AWAY FROM US AND TOOK REFUGE IN THAT CROMLECH*. MY MEN HAVE THE HILL SURROUNDED, AND BEHIND HER THE CLIFF FACE IS SHEER. SHE'S TRAPPED.
SO, WHY DON'T YOU GO AND GET HER?
SHE'S KEEPING US AT A DISTANCE WITH HER ARROWS. I'VE ALREADY LOST ENOUGH MEN THAT WAY. BUT THIRST AND HUNGER WILL FORCE HER OUT OF THERE.
HMM. IF I KNOW HER, THAT COULD TAKE A LONG TIME. THEIR HORSES?
WE KILLED THEM. THE WOMAN IS ON FOOT. SHE HAS NO CHANCE OF ESCAPING.
EVEN STARVING, SHE WON'T SURRENDER WITHOUT A FIGHT. I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA, CALEDONIAN.
MY COMPANION AND I WILL TRY TO DISARM AND CAPTURE HER. THAT WAY, WE CAN GET WHAT SHE STOLE FROM US WITHOUT WAITING, AND YOU CAN GET YOUR SACRED STONE.
WHY WOULD YOU RISK THAT?
BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME AND WE KNOW THIS WOMAN BETTER THAN YOU. WHAT HAVE YOU TO FEAR, CALEDONIAN? THERE'RE A HUNDRED OF YOU AND ONLY TWO OF US.
YOU SURELY DON'T WANT TO GIVE KRISS TO THIS OVEREXCITED BUNCH?
WOULD YOU BE SO INDULGENT IF OUR THIEF WAS UGLY, TJALL? DON'T WORRY. LISTEN TO WHAT WE'LL DO.
KRISS! KRISS OF VALNOR!

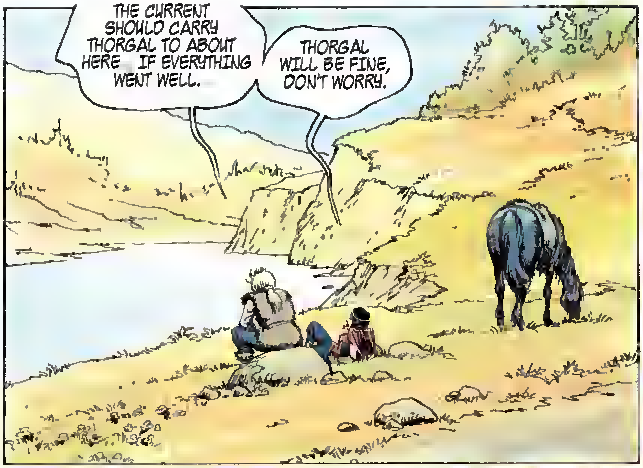
*CROMLECH: A STONE CIRCLE

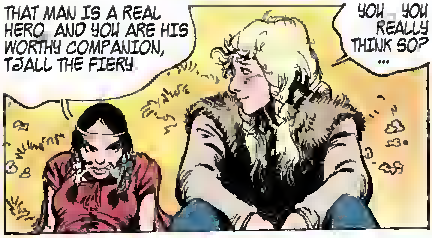
HALT! HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO HELP YOU I CAME AS A FRIEND.
I ONLY EVER HAD ONE FRIEND, THORGAL, AND HE'S DEAD.
WHY WOULD YOU HELP ME? YOU WANT ME DEAD LIKE THE OTHERS.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME, KRISS. LOOK I'M UNARMED.
WELL, TOO BAD FOR YOU!...
TWAANGG
PHEW!

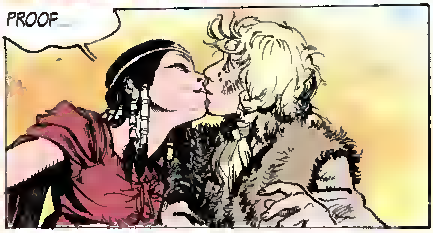
PFFFT... WHAT A FEISTY GIRL! HER CARESSES AREN'T THE KIND YOU FORGET ABOUT...
I... I HOPE I DIDN'T HIT HER TOO HARD...
THAT'S RIGHT. FEEL SORRY FOR HER TOO... BY ODIN! THEY'RE COMING ALREADY!

WELL DONE, COMPANIONS! THANKS TO YOU, WE CAN FINALLY GO HOME.
WHAT!? .. WHERE'S THE BLOOD-STONE!?
HERE!
THAT MY COMPANION AND THIS WOMAN BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE FREELY
I JUST HAVE TO LET MY FINGERS GO AND YOUR SACRED STONE WILL DISAPPEAR FOREVER IN THE DEPTHS OF THE RIVER .
BUT WHY? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NEVER! I..
OBEY! THE STONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN VENGEANCE, AND WE'LL FIND THIS WOMAN ONE DAY OR ANOTHER
YOU'LL PAY FOR HER, STRANGER BLOOD WILL HAVE BLOOD!
DON'T YOU THINK THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH DEATHS ALREADY? AT THE FOOT OF THE MENHIR, YOU'LL FIND A BOX THAT BELONGS TO ME...
THESE PIECES OF SILVER WON'T REPLACE YOUR DEAD WARRIORS, CALEDONIAN, BUT THEY'LL AT LEAST COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES. SORRY, BUT I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO OFFER YOU.

YES, STRANGER. YOUR LIFE. HOW LONG DO YOU HOPE TO KEEP YOUR BOW PULLED?
NOT VERY LONG NOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO, RUN AND FETCH YOUR FAMOUS STONE!
SCHLAKK
SEIZE HIM...?!?

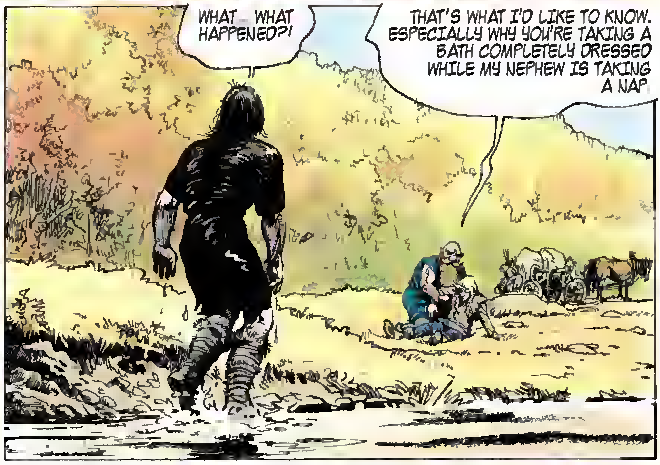

THE CURRENT SHOULD CARRY THORGAL TO ABOUT HERE... IF EVERYTHING WENT WELL...
THORGAL WILL BE FINE, DON'T WORRY.

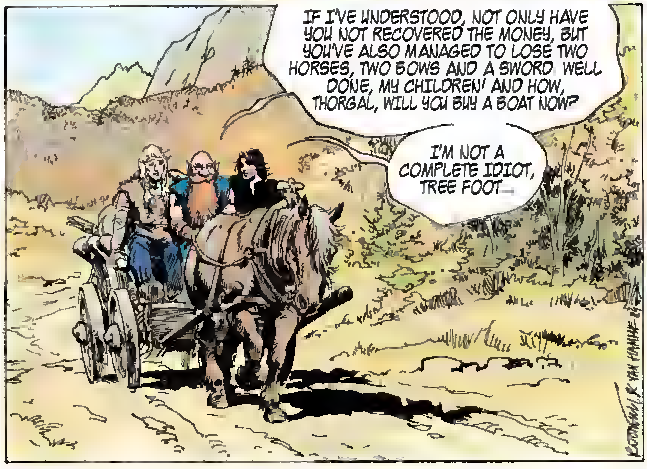

THAT MAN IS A REAL HERO AND YOU ARE HIS WORTHY COMPANION, TJALL THE FIERY
YOU... YOU REALLY THINK SO? ...

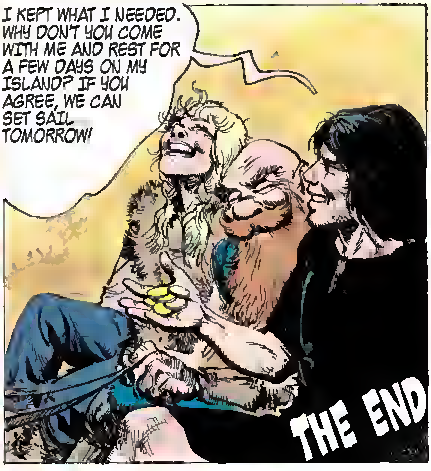

PROOF...

DON'T I OWE YOU MY LIFE? AS WELL AS, I PRESUME, THAT NASTY WHACK ON THE HEAD...
WELL... YES BUT... ERR YOU UNDERSTAND...

OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND...

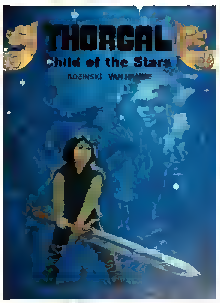

WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW. ESPECIALLY WHY YOU'RE TAKING A BATH COMPLETELY DRESSED WHILE MY NEPHEW IS TAKING A NAP


IF I'VE UNDERSTOOD, NOT ONLY HAVE YOU NOT RECOVERED THE MONEY, BUT YOU'VE ALSO MANAGED TO LOSE TWO HORSES, TWO BOWS AND A SWORD. WELL DONE, MY CHILDREN! AND HOW, THORGAL, WILL YOU BUY A BOAT NOW?
I'M NOT A COMPLETE IDIOT, TREE FOOT...


I KEPT WHAT I NEEDED. WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME AND REST FOR A FEW DAYS ON MY ISLAND? IF YOU AGREE, WE CAN SET SAIL TOMORROW!
THE END

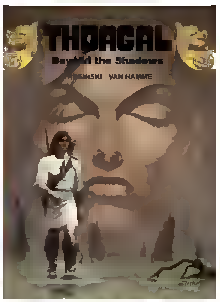
THORGAL

The Gods have put a man to the test



❶ Child of the Stars
Incl Aaricia

❷ The Three Elders of Aran
Incl The Black Galley



❸ Beyond the Shadows
Incl The Fall of Brek Zarith

❹ The Archers
Incl Allhoe

❺ The Land of Qa
Incl The Eyes of Tanatloc

❻ City of the Lost God
Incl Between Earth and Sun

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